

THE

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVII.—NEW SERIES, No. 588.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 1857.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED 6d.
STAMPED ... 6d.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—

New Lecture by J. H. PEPPER, Esq., on "OPTICAL ILLUSIONS," with very curious experiments, every Wednesday, and Friday, at Three and Eight.

Lecture by Mr. G. A. COOPER, on "PRIESTLEY'S PATENT PIANOFORTE."

Entire New Series of DISSOLVING VIEWS, illustrating the "TRAVELLER'S PORTFOLIO," daily, at Two.

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Admission to the whole, Is.; Children and Schools, half-price.

DEVONSHIRE-SQUARE CHAPEL, BISHOPSGATE-STREET.—The Rev. J. H. HINTON'S FOURTH LECTURE—

SUBJECT—ON IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS.

ON SUNDAY EVENING NEXT, Feb. 8, at Half-past Six.

LECTURES ON PEACE.

The FOURTH and LAST of a COURSE of LECTURES on the above subject will be delivered at the HALL of the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, 165, ALDERSGATE-STREET, on FRIDAY EVENING, Feb. 6, 1857, by the Rev. HENRY RICHARD.

SUBJECT—RESULTS OF THE RUSSIAN WAR.

Doors open at Half-past Seven. Lecture to commence at Eight o'clock precisely. Admission free.

NON-PAROCHIAL REGISTERS COM- MISSION.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE,
January 14, 1857.

By virtue of a Commission issued by Her Majesty, for the purpose of inquiring into the state, custody, and authenticity of any Registers or Records of Births or Baptisms, Deaths or Burials, and Marriages lawfully solemnized, in England and Wales, other than the Parochial Registers, and which have not been inquiry made into by former Commissioners, and deposited in the custody of the Registrar-General, pursuant to the Act of 3 and 4 Vic., cap. 92; and also for inquiring what measures can be beneficially adopted for collecting and arranging any of such Registers or Records, and for depositing the same, or copies thereof, in the General Register Office, or for otherwise preserving the same; and also for considering the proper measures to be adopted for giving full force and effect, as evidence in Courts of Justice, to all such Registers as are found accurate and faithful, and for facilitating the production and reception of the same:—

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Commissioners are ready to receive Information and Applications from all Persons having possession of any such Registers or Records, with a view to the examination thereof; the result contemplated being a Legislative Provision to secure their safe preservation, to render them accessible, and to impart to them the same character of legal evidence with those already placed in the custody of the Registrar-General—an object obviously important to the general interest of the community, and especially to the religious denominations to which the Registers belong.

All Communications upon the subject must be addressed to "The Non-Parochial Registers Commissioners, General Register Office, Somerset House, London (W.C.)"

By order of the Commissioners,

JAMES T. HAMMACK, Secretary.

TO CABINET MAKERS, UPHOL- STERERS, &c., &c.—WANTED, a comfortable INDOOR SITUATION for a YOUTH of good education and active habits, as an APPRENTICE to the above trade. A moderate premium will be given. A Dissenting master preferred.

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TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED, for a concern in the country, doing a large trade, TWO respectable YOUNG MEN, one to take the lead in the General Drapery, the other to take charge of the Ribbons and Fancy Sewing. Also, a sharp YOUTH as ENTERING CLERK.

Address, stating age and experience, to A. B., Messrs. Devas
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WANTED, in a GENERAL DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENT, a JUNIOR ASSISTANT. He must be strictly moral, and of active and persevering habits. No other need apply. Also, a respectable well-educated YOUTH as an APPRENTICE. He will be kindly treated, and have every opportunity of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the trade.

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A GENTS WANTED, in London, and all parts of the kingdom, to promote the interests of a Com- pany (registered under the Limited Liability Act) whose objects are of a directly moral and patriotic character. Ministers and intelligent laymen, who are actively engaged in works of Christian benevolence, will find this Agency consistent and compatible with their other pursuits. No risks.

Applications to be made to A. B., 1, Great College-street,
Westminster (S.W.)

William Hinton
by J. H. Scott

TO THE MEMBERS of the BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Having been urged by many influential Members of your valuable Society, who take a deep interest in its welfare, to come forward as a candidate for the vacant seat at your Board, I am induced to solicit the favour of your interest.

I find, from the large number of Policy holders, and from their being so widely scattered, that it would be impossible to make a personal canvass. I therefore trust that you will kindly endeavour to attend and give me your support on the day of election, Feb. 24, at Three o'clock, at Radley's Hotel.

I am convinced that the extension of the principle of Life Assurance is of the utmost importance, both nationally and individually, and unquestionably the Mutual System, such as your Directors have from the commencement of the Company so admirably and efficiently carried out, is the most advantageous for the Assured.

Although not personally acquainted, I may be known by name to many of you, through my being connected with a "Firm" of long standing, whose business connexions extend throughout the country.

If you should do me the honour of electing me a Director, I shall do my utmost to extend and increase the Company's usefulness and prosperity, and shall enter upon my duties with a deep sense of my personal responsibility, and with a determination to exercise, on behalf of your interest, the utmost vigilance and care.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

HENRY COOPER.

4, Chiswell-street, London, Jan. 17, 1857.

P.S.—Any communication from Members unable to attend the election, will be esteemed a favour.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, in the TEA, GROCERY, and PROVISION TRADE, a man of good experience, as FIRST HAND. No Junior need apply.

Apply to Isaac Rist, Brentwood, Essex.

TO GROCERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED, a JUNIOR ASSISTANT, who has been in the country, and can give unexceptionable references. If he know something of Drapery it will be a recommendation.

Apply to Mr. S. Seabrook, Kelvedon, Essex.

STRAW BONNET DEPARTMENT.—A competent LADY is OPEN to ENGAGEMENT.

Apply to the Rev. William Allen, Baptist Minister, Oxford.

TO NONCONFORMISTS.—TO BE LET ON LEASE, OR SOLD, a CHAPEL, with Pulpit and Seats, capable of holding about 300 persons, and galleries may be erected to hold 200 more; there is ground sufficient to enlarge the chapel to hold 1,000 or 1,200 persons. Situate at Westow- hill, Norwood, within five minutes' walk of the Crystal Palace and the two Railway Stations, City and West-end. The ground floor under the Chapel may be fitted as a School for 200 or 300 Children. A Roomy Dwelling-house adjoining may be had on Lease, or Sold.

Apply to Mr. Mansell, Auctioneer and Estate Agent, Upper
Norwood, and 4, Clement's-lane, Lombard-street.

A YOUNG PERSON wishes for an EN- GAGEMENT in a CONFECTORY or other Light Business. She has been accustomed to a Grocer's Shop for a considerable time. A Dissenter's family preferred.

Address, S. B., care of Mr. R. B. Southwell, Bridgnorth.

SCHOLASTIC TRANSFER.—PREPARA- TORY SCHOOL in a suburb of the Metropolis. Respec- table connexion. An eligible opportunity to a party of Evan- gelical principles, with £500 at command. School furniture in- cluded.

Apply, A. B., 6, Chiswell-street, Finsbury.

SCHOLASTIC.—WANTED, in a SELECT BOYS' SCHOOL, a JUNIOR ASSISTANT possessing a knowledge of French.

Address, stating age, references, and salary, to A. B., 150,
Aldersgate-street, London (E.C.)

TO BRITISH SCHOOL COMMITTEES.— A TEACHER, who has been nearly four years in her present school, is desirous of a RE-ENGAGEMENT. Can have unexceptionable references.

Address, M. N., Post-office, Chatham.

BRITISH and INFANT SCHOOLS.— WANTED, a SITUATION as GOVERNESS in a BRITISH GIRLS' or INFANT SCHOOL, by a YOUNG PERSON who has been six years a Pupil Teacher and Assistant.

Applications, for testimonials, to be made to Rev. J. Gill, or
W. D. King, Esq., Sudbury, Suffolk.

SCARBOROUGH INFANT SCHOOL.— WANTED, a MISTRESS fully qualified to take the charge of the above School, which has of late years averaged an attendance of about 120 Children, between the ages of two and six years. Salary, 40/- per annum, and House Free.

Applications, stating age, accompanied with testimonials, or
the addresses of referees, to be sent to the undersigned, on or
before Monday, the 16th inst.

JOHN ROWNTREE, Secretary.

Scarborough, Feb. 3, 1857.

A YOUNG LADY, who has been engaged in Teaching, is desirous of obtaining a SITUATION as GOVERNESS, either in a School or Private Family. In addition to the usual branches of an English education, she is competent to teach French, Music, Drawing, and the Rudiments of the German language.

Address, L. N., care of Mrs. Moat, 2, Whimple-street, Ply-
mouth.

HOMERTON COLLEGE, the Training In- stitution of the Congregational Board of Education.—The NEXT SESSION COMMENCES April 1, 1857, when there will be VACANCIES for MALE STUDENTS.

Applications for admission into the College, and for Teachers,
to be addressed to the Principal, the Rev. W. J. UNWIN, M.A.,
The College, Homerton, London (N.E.)

EDUCATION, LONDON.—Parents seek- ing superior intellectual cultivation for their daughters, combined with earnest prayerful effort for their spiritual pro- gress, may be supplied with prospectus stating terms, which are moderate, with a list of first-class Masters in attendance, and with references of the most satisfactory character, by applying to H. V., Post-office, Ladbrook Grove, Notting-hill, London. In addition to the daily careful schoolroom training, the Sabbath teachings of one of the most earnest Evangelical Ministers in London is enjoyed—a Minister whose efforts have for many years been peculiarly blessed and useful to the young.

ORIENTAL and BIBLICAL LANGUAGES.

The Rev. G. SMALL gives INSTRUCTION in Hindustani, Sanscrit, Persian, and Bengali, as also in Hebrew, and the
rudiments of Arabic and Syriac, at his Class Room, 3, Leadenhall-street; or at private residences and scholastic establish-
ments in London and vicinity.

For terms, testimonials, &c., address, 1, St. John's Grove,
Croydon or as above.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ST. JOHN'S- WOOD.—Principal, Mr. T. GROSVENOR, L.C.P.—This Establishment is designed to afford the educational advantages of the Public Schools, but free from the evils so commonly attending them. The intellectual powers of the pupils are developed by being brought into constant and healthful exercise; while their moral and religious culture is watched over with ceaseless solicitude. In the Domestic arrangements, the comfort and happiness of the pupils are systematically consulted. Pros- pects will be forwarded on application to Mr. Grosvenor, Albion-road, St. John's-wood.

M. FRANKLIN RECEIVES a FEW YOUNG GENTLEMEN to BOARD and EDUCATE.

Latin, Greek, and French, English Reading, Arithmetic, and
Mathematics, with other subjects included in a sound and liberal
education, are carefully taught. The arrangements made for
the training and comfort of the pupils are designed to meet the
views of those who desire for their children, chiefly, Christian
character and cultivated tastes. The terms are from Forty to
Sixty Guineas per annum. Reference may be made to gentle-
men whose sons are now at the School, as well as to gentlemen
formerly themselves pupils; to the Rev. T. R. Barker, Spring-
hill, College, Birmingham; S. Stone, Esq., Town Clerk, and T.
J. Hollings, Esq., Leicester, &c., &c.

Leicester, December, 1856.

BELGRAVE HOUSE SEMINARY, BRILL, BUCKS.

This Establishment for Young Ladies having been enlarged, a
few additional Pupils can be received at Christmas. Great ad-
vantages are offered to parents desiring a well-grounded and
useful education for their daughters, while, at the same time,
the ornamental branches are not forgotten.

The system pursued embraces the most approved methods of
instruction, and is calculated to prepare the Pupils for an effi-
cient discharge of the domestic and social duties likely to de-
velop upon them in after life. The Young Ladies are treated
with maternal kindness, and nothing is omitted that can con-
tribute to their comfort and progress.

TERMS—TWENTY GUINEAS PER ANNUM, including every
expense except Laundry and Books.

Provisions unlimited and of the best quality.
French, German, Music, and Drawing, when required, taught
by well-qualified Masters.

A Prospectus with full particulars will be forwarded on ap-
plication to Mrs. Clark, Belgrave House, Brill, Bucks.

GROVE HOUSE ACADEMY, BRILL, BUCKS.

Very few Scholastic Establishments have met with such a
large share of patronage as that at Grove House. A want long
felt has now been supplied, i.e., a respectable academy to which
Parents can send their Sons on reasonable terms, without numer-
ous and expensive extras, and, at the same time, feel sure
that they enjoy every comfort. The unusual success and con-
tinued increase of the School, prove not only that the exertions of
the proprietor have hitherto been completely successful, but also
have shown the necessity of still greater exertions on his part to
produce an establishment suited to, and equal to, the demands of
the present age. A change of Schools has been acknowledged for
all to be most pernicious, it is his desire to provide for the classes
of Pupils, so that young gentlemen may COMPLETE their EDUCATION at Grove House. With this view an
extensive and commodious building has been taken, to be used
entirely as a PREPARATORY SCHOOL for LITTLE BOYS
UNDER TEN YEARS OF AGE, and the present building will
be retained for the more advanced Pupils. It is confidently ex-
pected that this division of study will produce great and
beneficial results.

Brill is one of the most healthy spots in the kingdom. This is
proved by the fact that no case of serious illness, or contagious
disorder, has ever occurred at Grove House. Brill-hill, upon
which the village is situated, commands a most delightful and
extensive prospect of 200 miles in circumference.

TERMS.

THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL, 18 Guineas per annum.

THE UPPER SCHOOL, 29 " "

This sum includes all those items generally charged as extras,
requisites, &c. The following are some of the advantages of this
establishment: Sound teaching, constant oversight, absence of
corporal punishment, parental kindness, unlimited supply of the
best provisions, spacious and lofty rooms, and healthful locality.

If desired, the Pupils are allowed to write to their parents,
without being required to show their letters to their teachers.
No better guarantee for proper treatment can be given.

References to Parents of Pupils in all parts of the kingdom;

also, if required, in France and Germany.

A Prospectus will be forwarded on application to the Principal,
Mr. W. C. Clark, Grove House, Brill, Bucks.

ORIGINAL
DEFECTIVE

THE CAMBRIAN and UNIVERSAL LIFE
and FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. Capital, 100,000.
Established 1849.

OFFICE, 27, GRESHAM-STREET.

Agencies in the principal towns of England and Wales.
This office offers the benefit of assurance in all its branches
and is highly eligible for every description of life assurance.
A new and most important feature entirely originating with
this Company, viz., Marriage Dowries, Life Assurance, and De-
ferred Annuities, included in one policy.

Rates of premium moderate.

Annuities granted. Family endowments.

Loans on personal and other securities.

Forms of proposal and every information may be obtained on
application by order,

ALFRED MELIADO, Manager.

PERPETUAL INVESTMENT, LAND,
and BUILDING SOCIETY.

CHIEF OFFICE—37, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS,
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INVESTMENT SHARES ISSUED FROM 10/- to 100/-.

A 100/- share requires the payments of 10/- monthly for 12 years, or of 20/- for 74 years. The whole of the profits belong to the Shareholders, and will be received by them in addition to the amount of share.

Shares subscribed in full bear interest at five per cent., payable on the 30th of April and October.

All money paid upon shares can at any time be withdrawn, upon notice.

DEPOSITS received daily to any amount, at from four to

five per cent., returnable at one week's notice.

LOANS.—The Directors are prepared at once to advance money, in large or small sums, on mortgage upon houses and land, repayable by instalments during one to fifteen years.

The sum of 365,000/- has been received by this Society, since May, 1851, thus showing the confidence of the public in the principles of the Institution.

A copy of the last Annual Report, with Prospectus, will be sent upon receipt of one postage stamp.

JOHN EDWARD TRESIDDER, Secretary.

Agents wanted where none are appointed.

BRITISH EQUITABLE INVESTMENT
COMPANY.

Incorporated under 19 and 20 Vic., cap. 47.

CAPITAL—ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS.

CHIEF OFFICE—47, KING WILLIAM-ST. LONDON-BRIDGE.

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LONDON and WESTMINSTER BANK, London-bridge.

1. This is the only Building Society incorporated under Act of Parliament, and possessing a Permanent Guarantee Fund of 100,000/-, thus offering a solidity of security not found elsewhere.

2. Subscription Investment (that is, Building Society Shares under another name) granted; 10/- a month secures 100/- besides profits at the end of 12½ years, probably making the amount 120/-, or half the amount, besides profits, at the end of 7½ years.

3. Deposits of any amount received at interest, payable half-yearly.

Important districts are still unrepresented by agents. Agents possessing tact wanted. They can take the agency of one of the Modern Life Offices—the British Equitable Assurance Company

LIFE ASSURANCE AGENCY.—The Directors of the ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY are prepared to receive applications from respectable parties for Agencies in towns where they are not represented. For particulars, apply to the Secretary at the Chief Office.

H. B. TAPLIN, Secretary.

ANNUITIES.—Annuities, Immediate and Deferred, are granted by the Directors of the ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY, to parties of every age, on equitable terms. The following are illustrations of the Rates:—

Amount of Immediate Annuity granted for every 100/- paid to the Company:—

Age.	£ s. d.
30	5 18 8
40	6 12 8
50	7 11 5
60	10 7 0

The general advantages offered by this Company will be seen on an investigation of its Rates of Premium. It offers to the Assured the security of a large subscribed capital, combined with all the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office—Eighty per cent. of the Profits being divided among the Policyholders every five years.

The Rates of PREMIUM, which have been calculated by the Consulting Actuary, are based upon the latest and most approved corrected Tables of Mortality, and will, therefore, be found lower than those adopted by other and earlier institutions.

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Adolphus Baker, Esq.	James Tolman, Esq.
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Thos. Houghton Burrett, Esq.	

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STANDING COUNSEL.

ROBERT PORRETT COLLIER, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

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Messrs. SHEARD and BAKER, 3, Cloak-lane, City.

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OFFICES—11, DUCIE-PLACE (opposite the Exchange).

BIRMINGHAM.

LOCAL SECRETARY.

DAVID MALINS, Jun., Esq., 34, Colmore-row.

Forms of Proposal, Rates of Premium, and any other particulars, can be obtained of the Agents of the Company, and at the Chief Office, 25, Cannon-street, London.

H. B. TAPLIN, Secretary.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE
ASSURANCE COMPANY.

32, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON.
incorporated 1847, under Act 7 and 8 Vic., c. ex., and further
Empowered by Special Act 15 Vic., c. iii.

ACCUMULATED FUND, 100,000/-.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN GOVER, Esq., Chairman.	Gardiner, B. Webb, Esq.
ROBERT J. MILLAR, Esq., Vice-Chairman.	Groser, William, Esq.
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Burton, John Robert, Esq.	
Cartwright, Richard, Esq.	

Sanders, Joseph, Esq.

AUDITORS.

Burge, George William, Esq.	Porter, Joseph Long, Esq.
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BANKERS.

UNION BANK OF LONDON, TEMPLE-BAR.

SURGEON—JOHN MANN, Esq.

SURVEYOR—THOMAS TURNER, Esq.

SOLICITORS—Messrs. WATSON and SONS.

RESULTS OF TEN YEARS' BUSINESS.

8,110 Policies issued, insuring 1,787,303/-; annual income, 50,000/-; profits divided, 28,000/-.

Pure Mutualty without personal liability.

All the Profits belong to the Members, and are divided Triennially.

Profits paid in Cash, added to the Assurance, or Premiums Reduced, at option.

Advances granted to Members on their Policies to the extent of their Office value.

Invalid Lives Assured at equitable rates.

Funds employed in Advances to Members on adequate security.

Policies granted on the Half Credit System.

All Members entitled to Vote at the Annual Meetings of the Company.

JAMES INGLIS, Secretary.

IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,
1, OLD BROAD-STREET, LONDON.

Instituted 1820.

T. GEORGE BARCLAY, Esq., Chairman.

MARTIN T. SMITH, Esq., M.P., Deputy-Chairman.

One-third of the Premium on Insurances of 500/- and upwards, for the whole term of life, may remain as a debt upon the Policy, to be paid off at convenience: or the Directors will lend sums of 50/- and upwards, on the security of Policies effected with this Company, for the whole term of life, when they have acquired an adequate value.

Four-fifths, or Eighty per cent., of the Profits are assigned to Policies every fifth year, and may be applied to increase the sum insured, to an immediate payment in cash, or to the reduction and ultimate extinction of future Premiums.

At the fifth appropriation of profits for the five years terminating January 31, 1856, a reversionary bonus was declared of 12 10/- per cent. on the sums insured, and subsisting additions for every premium paid during the five years. This bonus, on policies of the longest duration, exceeds 21 5s. per cent. per annum on the original sums insured, and increases a policy of 1,000/- to 1,634/-.

Proposals for Insurances may be made at the Chief Office, as above; at the Branch Office, 16, Pall-mall, London; or to any of the Agents throughout the kingdom.

BONUS TABLE.

SHOWING THE ADDITIONS MADE TO POLICIES OF 1,000/- EACH.

Date of Insurance.	Amount of Additions to Feb. 1, 1851.	Addition made as on Feb. 1, 1856.	Sum Payable after Death.
1820	523 16 0	114 5 0	1638 1 0
1825	382 14 0	103 14 0	1486 8 0
1830	241 12 0	93 2 0	1334 14 0
1835	185 3 0	88 17 0	1274 0 0
1840	128 15 0	84 13 0	1213 8 0
1845	65 15 0	79 18 0	1145 13 0
1850	10 0 0	75 15 0	1085 1

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VOL. XVII.—NEW SERIES, No. 588.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 1857.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS:	
A Proposal for Religious Equality in Ireland	81
Church-rate Return	82
RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE:	
Spiritual Needs of East London	82
CORRESPONDENCE:	
The West Kent Election	83
What shall we do with our Criminals?	83
The Canton Massacre	83
The Voluntaries and the Parliamentary Session	84
Political	84
Reform Meeting at Manchester	84
The Crimean Commissioners	84
Mercantile Law Conference	85
Foreign and Colonial	85
Another Smithfield Demonstration	87
LEADING ARTICLES:	
Summary	90
Notes from the House of Commons	90
The Canton Outrage	91
Curiosities of Justice	92
Chit-chat of the Week	92
Spirit of the Press	93
A Yankee Picture of English High Life	93
Court, Personal, and Official News	93
Miscellaneous News	94
Law and Police	94
Literature	95
Gleanings	97
Births, Marriages, & Deaths	98
Money Market and Commercial Intelligence	98
Gazette	98
Markets	98
Advertisements	99

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

A PROPOSAL FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY IN IRELAND.

UNDER the above heading, Mr. Serjeant Shee, M.P. for the county of Kilkenny, has just published a pamphlet.* It consists of a short letter, extending over nine pages, to his constituents; of a Bill which we are led to infer would have been submitted to the House of Commons in 1854, had leave to bring it in been obtained, and which will not be again brought forward until a favourable public opinion shall have been "formed and pronounced;" and of an appendix containing notes explanatory of the nature and extent of the modifications which some of the sections of the Bill would effect. The tone of the letter is moderate and gentlemanly—the Bill itself is ably and carefully drawn—and the position and character of the honourable and learned serjeant who, if report speaks correctly, is already within a step or two of the bench, are such as to demand for any production of his pen a candid and respectful attention.

Mr. Serjeant Shee totally dissents from Mr. Miall's policy of Impartial Disendowment, as a solution of the Irish ecclesiastical difficulty. Even if his oath did not prevent him from lending his support to such a line of policy (which, according to the interpretation he puts upon it, it does) he would "infinitely prefer" the present state of things, to the project broached by the member for Rochdale. Indeed, were it possible to effect the overthrow of the Established Church in Ireland, he is not by any means clear that his own Church—the Roman Catholic—would be a gainer thereby. He appears to anticipate as the probable result of such a catastrophe an indefinite outburst of Protestant activity and zeal. "Who shall measure," he significantly asks, "the effects which might be produced upon the half-informed, the irreligious, and the indigent, by the spirit of proselytism which has of late broken loose, if universally quickened in the breasts of unendowed perverters, without standard, articles, or creed, by the lust of uncertain and indefinite gain?" "From the line laid down for us by circumspect friends," he adds in a note in his Appendix, "which continues to this day unelogged by any hard condition except our covenantal sufferance of the legal establishment—adherence to which has secured during eighty years, as much real freedom of discipline, government, and action, for our national Church, as is enjoyed by any other Church in Christendom, let us not be lured by the glare of English anti-endowment agitation." Be it so. But how, then, is religious equality in Ireland to be obtained? This is the express aim of the learned serjeant's pamphlet to demonstrate. "My object in publishing the following pages," says he, "is to prove to them (Irish Catholic constituencies and representa-

tives) and to our Protestant and Presbyterian fellow-subjects, how easy it would be to secure religious contentment, and put down sectarian ascendancy in every parish in Ireland, without subverting the Church Establishment, repealing the laws of the Reformation, or compromising the religious consistency of the State."

The plan shadowed forth in the Bill may be thus summarily described. In addition to the Ecclesiastical Commission already established in Ireland, it is proposed to create a Roman Catholic Ecclesiastical Commission, and a Presbyterian Ecclesiastical Commission, with the usual staff, powers, and responsibilities.

These three Ecclesiastical Commissions may be regarded as the three cisterns which are, after the passing of the Bill, to contain, in certain relative proportions, all the divisible ecclesiastical property of Ireland. The Commission already established by law will receive the entire inflow from the sources we shall presently describe, a portion of which it will re-distribute for the advantage of the Establishment, and the rest of which will find its way to the credit of the two other Commissions at the Bank of Ireland. The process of collection is to be as follows: On the next avoidance of the archiepiscopal and episcopal sees, and of every dignity in any cathedral church of Ireland, "all the estates, lands, rents, fines on renewals, profits, and emoluments" belonging to each respectively, are to vest in the "Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland," and the incomes of incumbents, except in seven large cities, are to be limited in certain dioceses to 400*l.* a year, in certain others to 300*l.*, and the surplus in each case is to be paid over to the aforementioned commissioners. In three hundred and ninety-four benefices, however, the appointment of clergy thereto is to be suspended after the next avoidance, and the revenues received by the Commissioners—they being bound only to keep the church and the glebe house in repair, and, in case of security being given, by two or more Protestant residents, for the regular payment of 100*l.* a year to a clergyman, and for the supply of all things requisite for public worship, to allow the use by the Protestant clergyman of the church and glebe house, and to augment his stipend by 100*l.* a year from their funds.

The next process to be looked at is that of redistribution. The Establishment, of course, is first cared for. The two archbishops are to receive 4,000*l.* a year each, the bishops 2,500*l.* The incumbents will retain their incomes, to the several amounts, and under the several conditions, specified above. Then there will be 100*l.* a year to be allowed in suspended benefices, where the Protestant residents engage to subscribe an equal amount, and on a certificate of the ordinary that the services of a curate are required, and security given for the payment to him of 25*l.* a year, the Commissioners are to allow him 75*l.* more. But the Commission is not to be any longer responsible, as now, for the supply of "requisites for Divine service in churches and chapels." Ministers' money is to be abolished, and the ministers now entitled to receive it are to be paid out of the general fund.

All things having been thus made snug and comely in the Establishment, at least so far as the incomes of her clergy are concerned, the whole residue of the fund is to be divided—two-fifths are to be placed to the credit of the Roman Catholic, and one-fifth to the Presbyterian, Commissioners, and are to be applied by them in building, repairing, and furnishing Roman Catholic and Presbyterian Churches. But this is not all. The Presbyterians are to keep the *Regium Donum*, we presume, and in order to put Roman Catholics on an equality, without interfering with the voluntary principle, the fee simple and inheritance now unsold of archiepiscopal and episcopal lands, are to be forthwith disposed of, and the proceeds applied to the purchase of glebes of ten acres, and the purchase or erection of glebe-houses, for Roman Catholic priests. There are other provisions of the Bill which we cannot stay to enumerate, all of which tend to improve the legal position of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

Such is the honourable and learned serjeant's easy plan * for securing religious equality, and putting down sectarian discontent in every parish in Ireland. We feel sure he will not object to our dealing with his proposal as frankly as he has done with that of Mr. Miall.

Of course, we object to it on the ground of its perpetuation of the national endowment principle. But the learned gentleman not merely runs in the teeth of our objection—a very small matter—he plainly mistakes the spirit of the age. His legal pursuits, no doubt, have forbidden his giving any very marked attention to what is going on around him—otherwise, he could hardly have failed to perceive that the set of public opinion is now increasingly unfavourable to State endowments of religion. Existing arrangements, it is true, are tolerated and defended, but only on the ground of their antiquity, not of their inherent fitness. It is found impossible, for example, to transplant the system to our colonies, or to extend it in Great Britain. Our leading journals, and some among our most eminent statesmen, have lately sung the praises of the voluntary principle, as guaranteeing more religious vitality than that of State aid, especially when such aid is coupled as it should be with State restrictions. If, then, in 1846 Lord John Russell found any further development of the policy of 1845 impracticable, it is even more so now, and we venture to predict will be increasingly so, as time rolls on. That public opinion for which the learned serjeant waits, instead of ripening, is decaying. He is too late with his proposal. Whatever chances may once have favoured it, they are gone. If he does not know this, it must be because his attention has been absorbed by the duties of his profession. But his pamphlet appears to us to indicate that he is not without his suspicions that he is the representative of a hopeless and diminishing minority.

If, however, the endowment policy were in higher feather than it is, the honourable and learned serjeant's proposed method of applying it to the aid of the Roman Catholic Church, and the comfort of the Roman Catholic priesthood, is little likely to commend itself to the statesmen of our day. It may be true enough that they have no sensitiveness in regard to the form of creed which they endow—but it is also true that their anxiety to endow any Church arises chiefly from their desire to keep its clergy under some sort of political control. The provisions of Mr. Serjeant Shee's Bill make over to the parish priests and Roman Catholic Commissioners of Ireland, a considerable amount of national property, leaving them just as independent of Government influence as they are at this moment. The Roman Catholic bishops and priests are constituted "corporations sole"—the Roman Catholic parochial bounds are legalised—and the Roman Catholic Church is to all intents and purposes established, by a process which admits of no State intervention. An *imperium in imperio* is coolly set up, and the State is bidden to keep her hands off. Now, does the learned serjeant really dream of being able to steal any such march on the Imperial Legislature at this time of day? If so, he certainly has been imposing on his own good sense by counting without his host.

We admit, and we admit with sorrow, that there is a "No Popery" feeling abroad in Great Britain which makes it difficult to obtain for Roman Catholics that full measure of justice to which, as citizens, they are entitled. Dr. Wiseman is to be held accountable for this state of public feeling. But Serjeant Shee apparently disregards it, as if it had no manner of bearing on the issue he seeks to bring about. Why, the Roman Catholics can barely hold their own against Mr. Spooner—and the policy of 1845 is in yearly danger of being reversed. This may or may not be regarded as lamentable—but surely, it is unstatesmanlike to blink the fact. Well, then, is it at such a moment, when the Maynooth Endowment is in proximate peril, and all State aid ministered to the Roman Catholic Church is looked upon by a large party in Parliament and out of doors as offensive to Almighty God—is it,

* A Proposal for Religious Equality in Ireland, and for a Charitable Settlement of the Irish Church Question. Addressed to his Constituents, by Wm. Shee, Serjeant-at-Law, M.P. for the County of Kilkenny. Dublin: Thomas Richardson and Son, 9, Capel-street. 1857.

we repeat, at such a moment that it is wise or patriotic to put forth proposals for the further development of a repudiated policy, and for handing over to the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland a large amount of national ecclesiastical funds? If religious equality be really the thing aimed at, this project, so far from furthering its existing chances, will tend only to destroy them. It may, and probably will, hamper Mr. Mill's movement—a desirable effect in the learned servant's opinion—but it will do nothing more. We are not sure that it would secure the unanimous suffrages of the Irish Roman Catholics—but of this we are certain, that neither in Scotland nor in England will it obtain the smallest political aid. The honourable member for Kilkenny might just as well have proposed to the population of Great Britain, to resume the style of dress fashionable in George the Second's reign. And if the Roman Catholics of Ireland are persuaded by the learned gentleman to seek religious equality in this direction, all we can assure them is, that they will not meet with it in this quarter, while they will miss it in every other.

CHURCH-RATE RETURN.

(From the Times.)

The mode of raising funds for the maintenance of our churches and of public worship is perhaps the most hotly contested and the most variously decided, or left undecided, of all these questions. A recent decision has left the law in that transitional, twilight state, which best promotes the development of social differences. The sovereignty of an old custom has received a death-blow, and now for several years, about the age of the rebellion in China, parish after parish has fallen into the hands of the foe. Though Parliament has done nothing to stop the social war, and has too much love of fair play to spoil such good sport, it shows its usual wish to know all about it. So we have before us a very bulky return, weighing rather less than two pounds, and purchasable for 2s. 4d., containing an immense mass of slovenly answers to slovenly questions on this interesting subject. These questions have been addressed to every parish and district in England and Wales, and have elicited every variety of reply, from no reply at all, which is the case with many parishes, to a good deal of superious information from gentlemen ambitious of adding to the topographical literature of their country. The principal question asked is whether Church-rates have been refused during the last fifteen years, and ceased to be collected? . . .

A few of these answers will serve as specimens, and even these we must abridge: "Rate refused sometimes, but still collected." "Refused this year." "Not yet refused, but great difficulty of collection." "No rate; land sufficient for church repairs." "Not refused, but not collected." "Rate granted and collected in 1850; but the hamlets refused to pay their quota, so the town has done so too." "Not refused, but protested against by a Dissenting minister." "Refused in the years 1844-5." "Granted again and again, and not refused, but not collected." "Not refused, though the majority of the large ratepayers are Dissenters." "The churchwardon occupies nearly the whole of the parish; so he and the clergyman have repaired the church without a rate." "Last rate collected in 1847; none asked for since." "Last four years ago; none wanted since." "None refused; ceased to be collected nine years ago." "Opposed in 1839; none attempted since." "Collected throughout the parish, though the district churches are maintained by their own pew rents." "Refused by two or three persons, but collected from the rest." "Rate for a cemetery loan; collected with difficulty." "Voluntary rate substituted." "Refused in 1854, and still." "An opposition now organised." "Refused in 1854; subscriptions till 1855, and then a rate." "Refused by one person, who has been compelled to pay." "Only one house in the parish. Church lands enough." "No Church-rates, it being a district, though the clergyman himself does pay a rate." "The district pays rates to the mother parish." "Rate not made, or likely to be made; Dissenters too strong." "Refused by Dissenters; paid by Church people." "Refused last Easter." "None collected for three years." "None for sixteen." "Rate not refused because the glebe and tithes contribute; refused elsewhere because they don't." "No rate refused, but the last collected twenty-four years ago. Great opposition; some in arrear, through the uncertainty of the law." "No Church-rate asked for within the memory of man. Rate, when required, only collected from persons rated at 10/- a year." "Not asked for, owing to Dissent." "Rate for church collected with difficulty; that for chapel refused, 1854." "The Duke of Bedford gratuitously keeps the church in repair." "Refused 1853." "No rate attempted; voluntary contributions; district church maintained by rate on power-owners." "Refused 1855; a poll inexpedient in the present state of the law." "Refused; in the event of a voluntary rate, not more than two-thirds would be collected." "Chapel the property of Lord Derby, and maintained by him and his tenants." "Rate of 1d. in the pound laid in 1851, but could not be collected." "Supported by the trustees of the River Weaver Navigation." "A 'cirage' tax sometimes demanded for the mother church, and paid by a few who choose to do so; the district church maintained out of pew-rents." "Refused 1854, but rates collected to pay a debt." "Rate disallowed for certain items, which will have to be paid by voluntary contributions." "No rates, but supported out of corporate fund." "No rates, an

annual rent-charge of 4/- being provided instead." "Rate of 3d. in the pound objected to; carried on a poll, but never collected." "Rate of 1½d. in the pound in abeyance through the unsettled state of the law." "Refused 1856, and meeting adjourned till 1857." "Compromise of 1d. in the pound a year, and subscriptions to make up the deficiency." "Refused in a few cases."

These answers are hastily taken from the first eighteen pages out of 319, and they are from the counties of Beds, Berks, Bucks, Cambridge, Chester, and Cornwall. As may be readily supposed, the metropolitan counties, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and some others, supply answers bearing more strongly on the singular position of Church-rates and the growing resistance to them. . . . People look very naturally to the Legislature to set these matters right, to settle the question of rates, stop the parochial warfare, and provide some plan for the maintenance of churches. Some, indeed, look further, and expect the Legislature to subdivide parishes, and even redistribute the revenues of the Church. It is often our fate to have to dismiss from our thoughts what a Legislature might do or ought to do, and consider only what it is likely to do. It is likely to do little or nothing in this case. They who have no particular affection for the Church of England find their work done for them without the interference of Parliament, and they will be only too happy to let things alone. The return before us shows parish after parish reconciling itself to the present state of the question—a large portion has now done so; and, without the interference of the Legislature, it is probable that in twenty years Church-rates will be a matter of history.

CONVOCATION.—The Convocation of the Province of Canterbury meets to-day, at eleven o'clock. Notices of motion are on the books of the Lower House, by Dr. McCaul, for petitioning for a Crown Commission for Church Reform; by Mr. Seymour, in favour of the admission of the laity to Church Synods; by Mr. Selwyn, in favour of amendments of the authorised version of the Bible; and by Archdeacon Randall, against the present constitution of the court of final appeal in charges of heresy. The Rev. Canon Trevor, who seems to be the leader of the Convocation party in the North, has addressed the Archbishop of York, urging that the ensuing formal meeting on the 4th of February "may be so ordered as to extend to the clergy of this province the liberties enjoyed in the other" (Canterbury.) To this application the Archbishop of York replied, stating that "whenever he might receive any commands from Her Majesty the Queen, authorising the Convocation of the province to proceed to any business whatever, it will be his bounden duty and anxious desire instantly to obey those commands. Till then, with all respect and deference, he must, as at present advised, adhere to the long practice of the province of York, and to the course which he has hitherto followed." On receipt of this reply, Canon Trevor again wrote, urging that the end sought by the petitioners was not power to make canon, but simply "to bring up their *gravamina et corrigenda* for presentation to the bishops, and, if necessary, to the Crown; and that right includes the power of electing their prolocutor, and deliberating in due form on the matters to be represented." The Archbishop, in his final reply, begs to be excused doing more than "merely stating that he has nothing to add to his former communication."

CHURCH EXTENSION.—The principle enunciated by the Bishop of London, that Church extension must take its rise at an earlier stage than that of church building, beginning, in fact, with aggressive missionary labour among the people, is meeting with recognition in influential quarters. We learn that the question has been raised in the Committee of the London Diocesan Church Building Society, by a Christian nobleman, whether the funds of that body may not be advantageously applied in plastering clergymen of a missionary spirit in populous districts, where there is no immediate prospect of erecting a church. The proposal is, we believe, still under consideration.—*Record.*

DISSENTING MINISTERS NOT TO BE APPOINTED REGISTRARS OF MARRIAGES.—A short time since, a circular was addressed to the ministers of chapels licensed for the solemnisation of marriages, containing a series of questions. The last two of these questions required were, whether it was thought desirable that ministers of registered places should be appointed to act as registrars of the marriages solemnised therein, and whether the parties addressed had a wish to act. The Rev. T. Mann, of Trowbridge, replied in the affirmative to both of these questions, but, having heard nothing further, he again wrote to the Registrar-General, and last week received the following reply: "General Register Office, January 22, 1857.—Sir, I am directed by the Registrar-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and, in reply, to inform you, that as Dissenting ministers are, in his opinion, not the most eligible persons to act as registrars of marriages, it is not his intention to appoint them to that office.—I am, Rev. Sir, your obedient servant, THOS. MANN, Chief Clerk.—Rev. Thos. Maun, Sunnyside, Trowbridge, Wilts."

ABOLITION OF CHURCH-RATES.—Among the notices of motions for the ensuing session is the following, by Sir W. Clay: "Bill for the abolition of Church-rates; the bill to be limited to total abolition of such rates, and a provision saving existing legal obligations"—in short, Sir William's bill of 1855.

A CHURCH-RATE VICTIM IN WALES.—The Rev. Mr. Davies, of Cowan, Pembrokeshire, whose property was recently seized for a Church-rate, has been entertained by his Church and congregation, and presented with a purse of 12/-, as an expression of sympathy and admiration. The Rev. W. Morgan, of Carmarthen, occupied the chair, and able speeches were

delivered by the Revs. J. Evans, B.A., Sardis; W. Thomas, Soar; and J. Lewis, Heulan, on the "Principles of Dissent."

THE SUNDAY LEAGUE DEFEATED AT ROCHDALE.—A public meeting was held at the Public Hall, Rochdale, on Monday evening week, to consider the propriety of opening museums, &c. on Sundays. The hall was crowded, and the proceedings were of a very stormy character. The Mayor (Mr. Jacob Bright) presided. Mr. London, chairman of the central committee in London, in a long address expounded the principles of the Sunday League. Mr. Smithies moved, and Mr. Nuttall seconded, a resolution embodying the principles of the League. The Rev. Mr. Parkinson (Independent) moved the following amendment: "That in the opinion of this meeting, Sunday is designed both by Divine and natural law as a day of Christian worship and bodily rest; and that it is, therefore, unreasonable to petition Parliament to make any alterations in the present laws respecting its observance." Mr. Henry Kelsall, in seconding the amendment, said that as a manufacturer he would say, if the half-day was insufficient on Saturdays for the working people, he was ready to shut up his factory the whole day. (This announcement was received with tremendous cheering.) Mr. Alderman Ashworth and Mr. John Ashworth having addressed the meeting in favour of the amendment, Alderman Livsey addressed the meeting in favour of the resolution. The Chairman then put the motion, and the amendment was carried by a considerable majority.

Religious Intelligence.

SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF EAST LONDON.

"SCHOOL-CHURCH."

On Saturday a meeting was held on the occasion of the opening of the new school-church connected with St. Peter's Church, Stepney. The building, an unpretending but commodious and appropriate structure, is situated in Essex-street, and surrounded by a dense and poor population, consisting principally of dock labourers and their families. The Rev. Mr. Rowsell, the zealous pastor of St. Peter's, having felt the inadequacy of the existing institutions in the parish to supply its spiritual and educational wants, resolved on the erection of the present building, and on Saturday had the satisfaction of being surrounded on the occasion of its opening by the Bishop of London, Mr. Gladstone, M.P., Mr. W. Cotton, Rev. Mr. Maurice, Mr. Charrington, Mr. Gassiot, Rev. Mr. Champneys, and several of the clergy and laity of the district. The plan proposed to be carried out is somewhat novel. The school-church is a plain, comfortable, building, erected for the accommodation of about 300 persons. On Sundays short services are performed, adapted to the wants of the particular classes for whose benefit the building is designed. During the week about 300 children of both sexes are instructed. It is also intended to deliver lectures, and to provide tea for the parents of the children, with the view of inducing in the labouring poor the habit of attending religious worship. The principal manufacturers in the neighbourhood have subscribed to erect the school, and Miss Burdett Coutts has liberally contributed towards the expenses of the scheme.

The Bishop of London, who presided at the meeting, said he was informed by Mr. Rowsell that the building was to be used for various purposes—for a school, and also for such social and religious meetings as he hoped would bring him into more intimate connexion with the poorer classes of his parishioners.

This might seem a departure from the ordinary principles of the Church to which they belonged, but he thought a feeling had grown, and was becoming stronger every day, that they must endeavour to call together for worship, however they could get them, those masses of the population who were springing up around them throughout the kingdom. Every one who had to do with them knew how difficult it was to induce the very poor to frequent the parish church. (Hear, hear.) People were apt at times to consider this difficulty imaginary, and to suppose—what was true enough in itself, though not applicable in the present case—that where there was a will there would be no difficulty. But the upper classes were apt to make too light of the difficulties of the poor. It was true that God could be worshipped in rags as well as in broadcloth; but every one who knew what the feelings of the poor were—and their feelings were as sacred as ours—must be aware that there was a real practical difficulty in this matter of dress—(hear, hear)—in addition to which the poor man, when he entered the church, did not know where to turn, and was afraid of occupying the seat which belonged to one of the wealthier classes. (Hear, hear.) This difficulty imposed on them the duty of opening up places of worship where such differences disappeared, and where the poor were encouraged to consider themselves upon an equality with ourselves. As far as his own opinion went, he considered this expansion of the system of the Church, as a means of meeting a growing and acknowledged want, advisable. This was a feeling of which he need not be in any degree ashamed. He hoped, when everything unfitting for worship was removed, that persons might pray to God in this schoolroom as fervently as in churches more especially dedicated to His worship, and that by this means the number of His worshippers might be increased. When Mr. Rowsell, therefore, applied to him for permission to use this room as a place of worship, he replied that the plan had his hearty approval, and he believed the law of the land fully sanctioned that course. He was anxious, as far as his authority went, that the plan should be fully and fairly tried. (Hear, hear.) And now, as he had the opportunity of addressing persons whom he would not see for a long time again, it might not be inappropriate, in one coming from a distant part of London to visit them, to say a few words. It was a circumstance inseparable from the state of society in which we lived that the rich and poor diverged more and more from each other. (Hear, hear.) As towns extended

and population became dense in one part, the wealthier classes separated themselves more and more from their poorer brethren. (Hear, hear.) It therefore became their duty to guard against this tendency of the age. For the last seven years he lived in a manufacturing town, and there he saw on a small scale what took place in London on a larger scale—viz., the wealthy classes and all who could afford it flying from the smoke and filth of the towns to the healthy and pure air of the country. The very manufacturers themselves, who gathered together these masses of population, retired to their country seats from the disagreeable consequences of the smoke and impure air which their factories created. This feeling seemed natural, but its consequences were deplorable, for we came to this state of things, that we had two nations instead of one—a nation of the rich and a nation of the poor, who were separated not merely in their feelings, their enjoyments, and in the unequal proportion of the good things of this life, but by actually distinct localities. The one lived in great streets and squares, where the others scarcely ever showed themselves. This physical isolation must produce bad moral effects. It was impossible for men who seldom saw each other to have much sympathy with each other; it was impossible for those who lived in the country and in fresh air, and in the midst of good things, to know the grievances the poor suffered in their wretched houses in the pent-up lanes and narrow streets of the metropolis. (Hear, hear.) It was, therefore, of the greatest importance that those to whom God's providence had given these worldly advantages should consider it a part of their duty to mix more than they did with the poor—to see more of their dwellings, to exert themselves more in their behalf, and to make them feel that they were one with themselves. (Hear, hear.) They all knew that they could get on very badly without the labouring population. (Hear, hear.) It was all very well to talk of the advantage of wealth and of the advantage of the respectable middle class; but where would they all be without the brawny arms and manly hearts of the labouring poor? (Cheers.) His lordship reminded the clergy that it was their duty to attend to the poor especially, and to tell them that though there was a distinction between rich and poor for a few brief years in this life, there was no distinction in the sight of God. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Mr. ROWSELL expressed his thanks to those gentlemen, both clergy and laity, who by their presence countenanced a work in which he was personally so interested. The building, he said, would be used also as a place of social amusement and recreation. The labouring classes did not know what to do with themselves when they came back from their work. Those who thought that they ought to remain at home did not know what their homes were. He was satisfied that the social improvement of these classes must precede their moral improvement.

Mr. GLADSTONE moved the following resolution:—

That separation of rich and poor, by their several residences at East and West of London, demands the active interchange of love and co-operation to sustain real Church membership, and that every work of the Church of England in educating and teaching the poor and crowded population has a claim upon the assistance of the richer members.

He said his lordship dwelt on this proposition in a manner which left nothing to be desired. He enunciated with sad and painful truth the doctrine, that we were bound together in one body, even as the body of our Lord, and that in virtue of that sacred relation we were obliged to offices of mutual love. The day would come, however, when society required to be awakened to the fact that under these truths, which we heard without attention, there lay a meaning which, if not realised and applied to the acts of daily life, we must, and perhaps before long, rue the consequences. It was an unquestionable truth, and a necessary result of the laws by which societies were constructed, that every house which was built for the nobleman, the wealthy landlord, the banker, or the merchant in Belgrave or Eaton squares, did generate a certain amount of population who were cast upon this eastern district, who were removed out of sight, and therefore unhappily out of mind, of the wealthier class. This was a serious and appalling state of things. (Hear, hear.) It was scarcely possible to hope it should receive more than mitigation, but great mitigation it might receive. It was a duty—and a sacred and solemn duty it was—to heal the sores of Lazarus; but they had now lived into a time when, through the rapid multiplication of population, and through the various disorganising influences which attended the rapid creation of population, the poorer classes had been permitted to fall out of the habitual traditions of religion, and the clergy had, with inadequate means, to face a real missionary work, and to bring under the influence of religion those masses for whom Christianity existed only in name. (Hear.) The right hon. gentleman referred to the many difficulties and impediments which beset the clergy, but pointed to the work accomplished by Mr. Rowsell as an example of what might be effected by zeal and energy. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. F. D. MAURICE seconded the resolution. He said that the rich themselves would receive the greatest possible reward and the greatest of blessings, by knowing more of and mixing more with the working classes. (Hear.)

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr. COTTON moved the following resolution:—

The vitality of church membership should be expressed by active brotherhood, and the labouring classes, whilst they so largely contribute to the strength and happiness of the country, need the sympathies and efforts of those who have received a higher education than themselves.

The Rev. Canon CHAMPNEYS seconded the resolution, which was carried. The Rev. J. A. HESSEY moved the next resolution, to the effect that the efforts of the Church which were being made in this district, consisting of 13,000 souls, mostly of the poorer class, deserved confidence and help. Mr. LILLEY, churchwarden, seconded the resolution, which was carried. Mr. A. HEAD proposed, and Mr. J. S. SMITH seconded,

a vote of thanks to the right rev. chairman, which terminated the proceedings.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.—The Rev. T. Mays, of Wigston Magna, is about to resign his charge, and remove to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, to attempt the re-organisation and revival of the Independent interest in that town. In addition to his ordinary pastoral duties, Mr. Mays has conducted, for nearly three years, an afternoon service on the Sabbath, in the Temperance Hall, Leicester. The very encouraging success that has attended this effort has led to urgent and repeated solicitations, that Mr. M. would undertake the re-establishment of the Independent church and congregation at Ashby.

BUCKINGHAM CHAPEL, CLIFTON.—On Tuesday evening, the 27th ult., a congratulatory tea meeting was held in connexion with this Church and congregation, in the school-room. The Rev. R. Morris presided. The Revs. W. Craik, E. Robert, W. Barnes (of Trowbridge), Messrs. Verrew (of the Continental Aid Society), B. Nicholson (of Bedminster), and J. Davies, took part in the services. The Chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to thank their friends for the kind assistance that had aided them to make their beautiful chapel suitable for comfortable worship, to erect an appropriate organ, and pay off a debt of £2,300. All these objects having been accomplished, and the small Church of ten members having had a yearly accession of twenty members during the seven years of the chairman's pastorate, it was thought desirable to call together their friends, and thus acknowledge their obligation to God and unite their congratulations with their friends. Suitable addresses were delivered at this interesting meeting.

CHATHAM.—The Rev. J. Coutts, of the Baptist College, Regent's-park, has accepted the cordial invitation of the Church in Zion Chapel, Chatham, to become their pastor. He entered on the sphere of his labours on the first Sabbath in January.

MERTON INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.—On Thursday, the 22nd ult., a tea-meeting was held at the above place, after which a very able lecture on "Self-culture" was delivered by the Rev. J. Steer, of Croydon. The proceeds went to clear off the debt of the chapel, and the friends at Merton have now the pleasure to announce that their elegant place of worship is free.

RICHMOND, SURREY.—On Wednesday, the 28th ult., a tea *soirée* was held at the school-rooms of the Independent Chapel, for the purpose of presenting the Rev. Evan Davies with a public testimonial, on the occasion of his leaving Richmond, after a residence of nearly thirteen years. After tea, the company adjourned to the chapel. T. H. Ravenshaw, Esq., occupied the chair. Prayer having been offered by the Rev. L. H. Brynes, B.A., the chairman proceeded to read the address prepared by the committee of the Testimonial Fund, accompanied with "a purse of 100 sovereigns," testifying the pleasure it afforded him thus publicly to express his esteem and respect for Mr. Davies. The Rev. Evan Davies, in a feeling speech, referred to the principal events which have transpired during his ministerial connection with Richmond. The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Revs. G. S. Ingram, J. Traviss, Lockwood, R. Ashton, R. Ann, Mr. Cox (the deacon), R. P. Spice, Esq., and G. F. Whiteley, Esq. Mr. Whiteley gave deserving pre-eminence to the fact, that, by the personal efforts alone of their retiring pastor, half the money required to build their beautiful chapel was obtained. The old one was destroyed by fire in 1851, and the present structure leaves entirely free from debt. The Rev. Evan Davies leaves Richmond with the best wishes of his friends and fellow-townsmen, who, of various denominations, united on this occasion to do him honour. Great praise is due to Josias Nottidge, Esq., for his prompt and active generosity.

SPIRITUAL DESTITUTION OF BRISTOL.—We understand that a body of the clergy of this city have determined to make a special effort for the amelioration of the spiritual destitution which, notwithstanding the efforts of the charitable, prevails in Bristol. Special services are to be held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, at the school-rooms of different parishes of the city, and an appeal has been issued to the working classes, requesting them to attend with their wives and children, and to abstain at least one hour from things temporal to provide for things eternal. The clergymen who have signified their intention of taking part in this good work are the Revs. J. Hensman, W. Knight, H. Allen, A. Rogers, D. Cooper, W. Bruce, J. B. Clifford, H. C. Brice, J. E. Nash, and J. J. Ebsworth.—*Bristol Mercury.*

THE REV. W. ARTHUR.—Information has lately been received at the Wesleyan Mission House of Mr. Arthur's safe arrival in Egypt, in the early part of this month; and that the state of his health exhibits some improvement since leaving England.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.—This society has commenced the issue of a little publication, to be called the *Religious Tract Society Reporter*, which is to record the operations and successes of the society, than which none can furnish more abundant or interesting illustrations of the mercy and power of God. The first number contains accounts of tract distribution in China, India, France, the Baltic, and on board ship; many striking anecdotes arising out of the circumstances under which the publications of the society were given away being related.

A RELIGIOUS IMPOSTOR.—Information was lodged with the Glasgow police authorities, on Thursday, that middle-aged, dark complexioned, sunburnt-looking man, about thirty-five years of age, was going about the city representing that he was connected with the London Missionary Society, and had recently returned from Ceylon and Calcutta, where he had been employed as a missionary. By plausible and what

has since proved false representations, he succeeded in fleecing several respectable parties of sums of money varying from £1. to £5. He was announced to appear at a *soirée* in a fashionable locality on Wednesday night, but he was *non est inventus*. The police traced out his lodgings, but were rewarded for their pains by finding out that he had gone off on Saturday without paying his bill. He imposed on his landlady by making her believe that he was a clerk in an extensive warehouse in Buchanan-street.—*Edinburgh Witness.*

Correspondence.

THE WEST KENT ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of your paper, to offer a word of advice to the Dissenting electors of Kent, in reference to the contest, now pending, for the representation of the western division of that county.

There are two candidates, viz., Sir Walter Riddell, a Tory barrister of the old fashioned "pig tail" school, with notions of civil and religious liberty about as enlightened as those of the Emperors of China or Japan, and Mr. Wykeham Martin, a large landholder of good liberal principles, who will vote for Sir Wm. Clay's bill for abolition of Church-rates. If the Liberals unite cordially, as I am glad to say, they appear to be doing, I believe Mr. Martin's success to be certain.

The *Liberator* for February says: "It is certain no Liberal candidate can be returned without the support of the Dissenting electors." This is true to the letter; but, although the writer in the *Liberator* on the whole seems to approve of Mr. Martin, he speaks, I think, too leniently of a possible neutrality of some few of the Dissenting electors, in consequence of Mr. Martin not being prepared to adopt all the views which we, who are of the thorough voluntary school, hold on the subject of Irish disendowment.

As, however, Mr. Martin is thoroughly sound on the subject of Church-rates,—the most matured and important ecclesiastical topic of the day,—I hope that not a single Dissenting elector will remain neutral on the present occasion. The contests in West Kent have been hitherto very evenly balanced, and the neutrality of twenty Liberal electors might occasion a reverse to the Liberal cause, although I greatly hope that the Liberal majority will amount to several hundreds, as, thanks to the West Kent Liberal Registration Association, nearly 1,000 Liberal electors have been put on the register since last election. A defeat to the Liberal cause at the present time would be most disheartening, as the legitimate expenses of the contest which Mr. Martin has incurred are large; and I therefore do hope that the Dissenting Liberals will rally round Mr. Martin to a man, particularly as I fear that his frankness on the Church-rate question will cost him the support of not a few Liberals who are connected with the Established Church. An additional argument for cordial co-operation amongst the Liberal party is furnished by the fact, that a shameless system of wholesale objection to Liberal voters, such as I believe to be without precedent in any county in England, was practised by the Tories at the revision of the List of Voters in 1855 and 1856, whereby many Liberal electors, whose qualification was undoubted, and had been enjoyed for many years, were struck off through inability to attend the Revising Barrister's Court.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
A DISSENTER, AND ONE OF MR.
MARTIN'S COMMITTEE.

Greenwich, Feb. 2, 1857.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR CRIMINALS?

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with approbation your lucubrations on this subject, and have much faith in the labour system, both as a means of correction and support. The highest authority informs us that if a man will not work, neither should he eat. The indisposition to work is one cause of crime, and, in such cases, compulsory labour would be its appropriate punishment. No doubt Mr. Pearson's is a well-considered system, for which he deserves thanks and encouragement. The first outcry that it would involve is a serious consideration, and the details would require careful attention. My object in writing, however, is not to discuss this or any other comprehensive scheme of prison discipline, but simply to ask, through the medium of your valuable paper, Why a certain class of criminals might not be dealt with as they are in some of our colonies? I have there seen them turned out as scavengers and road-makers. They were under proper superintendence, and wore a suitable dress, on which was conspicuously inscribed the significant word *gao*. The apprehension of being thus sent out ticketed as gaol birds, is not unlikely to deter from the commission of crime. Borough authorities might undertake the management of the business, and find profitable employment for unskilled labour; and for persons who are oppressed with a double income-tax, and heavy local rates, this employment of criminals might afford acceptable relief. But I forbear to trespass on your space.

Yours, &c., J. W.

THE CANTON MASSACRE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I pray you impress on the minds of your readers the necessity of presenting petitions to Parliament on the Canton atrocity. Each individual should petition; the presentation of numerous petitions is always best: the petition need not be long. I enclose a copy of one that I have requested Mr. Duncombe to present.

Believe me, sincerely yours,
89, Great Russell-street, Feb. 2. JOHN EPPS.

To the Honourable the House of Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled,

The Petition of the Undersigned, an Elector of the borough of Finsbury, humbly sheweth:

That your petitioner feels an atrocity has, in connexion with the affair of the Arrow, been committed on the inhabitants of Canton, as degrading to Great Britain as was the atrocity of the Russians at Sinope.

That your petitioner prays your Honourable House to insist on Her Majesty's Government to take steps in reparation of this atrocity; to punish the parties engaged therein, and to teach them that to the Queen in Council alone belongs the prerogative of declaring war.

[FEB. 4, 1857.]

That your petitioner feels, that if atrocities such as that practised in relation to the inhabitants of Canton are allowed by Parliament to go unpunished, the righteous judgment of Heaven will overtake the people of this country with a retribution as signal as such neglect would deserve.

That your petitioner prays for instant action on Her Majesty's Government, being convinced from the character of the men already engaged in this atrocity, and from the reasons put forth by them in justification, that they will add other atrocities to those already manifested in order to cover with the dazzling investiture of apparent success the baseness and the audacity of their procedure.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray,
JOHN ERPS, M.D.,
89, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury.

THE VOLUNTARIES AND THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

It is usual in political circles for the heads of parties, and their immediate followers, to dine together at the beginning of the Parliamentary Session, and this year the example is to be followed, with variations, by a section which has hitherto commenced the session without any sort of demonstration. The Executive of the Liberation Society have thought that some important ends would be gained by bringing together their parliamentary friends, and their leading supporters out of doors, with a view to a public enunciation of their sessional policy, and to the acquisition of that strength which springs from a thorough understanding and earnest appreciation of the particular points which may be urged with the greatest hope of immediate effect.

The suggestion has hitherto been made in private only, but the response given by those who have been invited to act as stewards has been such as to make it certain that there will be a large and influential gathering on the occasion. Mr. John Remington Mills has consented to preside, and the support of nearly a score of M.P.'s, and about sixty other influential gentlemen, resident in various parts of the country, has been already promised. Indeed, the prospects of success have been such as to lead the committee to abandon their original idea of resorting to the Milton Club, and the dinner is therefore to take place at the London Tavern, on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Those of the society's friends who are resident in and near the metropolis will, we assume, need no persuasion to be present; but we may suggest that the company of gentlemen from the provinces is likely to give increased weight to such an expression of opinion, and that it will therefore be worth an effort to visit London for the purpose.

POLITICAL.

On Monday, the committee and members of the Ballot Society entertained Mr. William Nicholson at dinner at the Albion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, in testimony of their appreciation of his public services, in having been mainly instrumental in making the vote by ballot part of the electoral law of the colony of Victoria. The Hon. F. H. F. Berkeley, M.P., presided, and Mr. E. C. Whitehurst occupied the vice-chair. Amongst those present were Mr. Nicholson, General Thompson, Messrs. S. Morley, Bateman, Savage, Prout, Wickham, Gurney, Craufurd, M.F., W. J. Hall, J. P. Gassiot, J. J. Travers, Serjeant Parry, Bontems, Campbell Sleigh, and Dr. Foster. In response to the toast, "Our distinguished guest, William Nicholson, Esq., the successful champion of protected voting," that gentleman gave an interesting account of the working of the ballot in the colony, and proved by extracts from various journals that the statement of the *Times* as to the failure of the ballot was grossly inaccurate. In fact, the very reverse had been established even by the admission of those who had been opposed to that system of voting, and it would not be his fault if the people of England remained long in doubt on the point. Mr. Samuel Morley gave the health of the 225 members of the House of Commons who support Mr. Berkeley's annual motion, which was responded to by Mr. Craufurd.

Mr. Martin, the Liberal candidate for West Kent, promises to support Sir W. Clay's bill for the total and immediate repeal of Church-rates, but objects to touch the Maynooth endowment.

The *Plymouth Journal* says: "The Reformers of Devonport have determined to bring forward as a candidate for the representation of that borough in Parliament James Wilson, Esq., the present member for Westbury, and the proprietor and editor of the *Economist*, to supersede that do-nothing Derbyite, General Sir George Berkeley. Mr. Wilson was to have attended a *réunion* at the Mechanics' Institute last week, but was prevented by a fall from his horse."

It is stated that Sir Massey Lopes is going to try for Westbury. He has been making himself as popular as he can there, and may probably be returned.

The late Duke of Rutland being now buried, Mr. C. H. Frewen, M.P., has addressed the electors of North Leicestershire on the Protestant interest, in opposition to Lord John Manners, and also because he is more attached to Leicestershire personally than to East Sussex, which he now represents. The Maynooth question is apparently the ground on which the election contest will be fought. Mr. Frewen considers

the grant a national sin, and Lord John Manners has voted in favour of it.

The friends of Lord Henry Scott, observing the very general feeling of the electors of Dumfriesshire in favour of Mr. Hope Johnstone, of Annandale, as expressed at public meetings of the electors on the 21st and 28th of January, have resolved to withdraw Lord Henry; and an intimation to this effect appears in a local paper of Friday. Mr. Hope Johnstone is therefore the only candidate, and is almost certain of being elected as the successor of the Marquis of Queensberry without opposition.

REFORM MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

In conformity with annual custom, the free-traders of Manchester met on Thursday evening, in the large room of the Free-Trade Hall, Peter-street. The meeting was a revival, and a very successful one, in this new and magnificent structure, of those large free-trade gatherings which were wont to take place in the old hall. The large room was crowded in every part. George Wilson, Esq., presided, and was supported on the platform by the Right Hon. T. Milner Gibson, M.P., John Cheetham, Esq., M.P., James Heywood, Esq., M.P., George Hadfield, Esq., M.P., &c. A deputation from the Ballot Society was present.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, passed a high eulogium upon Mr. Bright, and adverted to his long parliamentary services. After speaking at some length on the question of taxation, war, and public expenditure, Mr. Wilson said that in 1854 the present Chancellor of the Exchequer showed that the expenditure of the country, previous to the war, was only 51 millions sterling. Therefore, he said, the first thing they had to look to was to bring their expenditure to the 50 or 51 millions at which it was in 1843 and 1844, in order that they might be able, by the concentration of their energies on the taxation, to throw off the burdens which press most imperiously on the country. (Cheers.)

A letter of Mr. Bright, dated Rochdale, November 5, 1856, was then read to the meeting. Mr. Bright, in this letter, alluding to the delicate state of his health, offered to retire from the representation of the city, as he should not be able "to attend the House of Commons during the next session of Parliament." In conclusion, Mr. Bright observed, as to the future:—

I hope I am not too sanguine in believing that a few months more of rest—rest of the faculties which have had almost no rest during the past fifteen years—will restore to me the power, as I still have the will, to labour in that field in which so much of my life has been spent. If I am permitted to recover my former strength before the occurrence of a general election, I shall then hope for a continuance of the confidence which the electors of Manchester have so long placed in me; if renewed health be not granted to me, I shall then withdraw from public life, remembering, as long as I live, how much I owe to the kindness and forbearance of those in whose name, and on whose behalf, I have acted for nine years past in the House of Commons.

A resolution, recognising Mr. Bright's great services, and, "while cheerfully conceding to him the interval of repose which may be necessary for the complete restoration of his health, requesting him to continue his parliamentary connection with the city," was proposed and carried unanimously.

The Right Hon. THOMAS MILNER GIBSON, M.P., was greeted with loud applause, and spoke at great length. He said, when Parliament meets, we shall find parties in a somewhat disorganised state. There is the Government, there is the Opposition, and there are what I shall call the "outsiders." (Laughter.) Perhaps it is not proper to allude to "outsiders." It has been the practice to consider that there are only two parties—the Government party and the Opposition, the Whigs and the Tories—but now we have "outsiders," men of great experience and ability—Lord John Russell and the colleagues of that distinguished statesman, the late Sir R. Peel—and let me tell you, to use a sporting phrase, that an "outsider" sometimes "wins." After referring to some other topics, he said—The first question that we have to dispose of, is the question of the expenditure of the country. (Hear, hear.) The Chancellor of the Exchequer, I remember, last session, told us that next year we might fairly expect to reap the entire benefits of peace. Well, then, we must return to a peace military establishment. (Hear, hear.) There is a tendency in this country to encourage the Government to take, as it were, a fresh departure from the late war, and to saddle the country with a permanent addition to the military establishments.

I am one of those who hold to what I believe the ancient constitutional policy of England—a small, a very small, standing army—(hear)—looking to our navy as your means of defence against your enemies. (Cheers.) I hold that a military policy is at variance with the spirit of the English constitution. (Hear, hear.) I have high authority for that opinion.

We find the most eminent statesmen of the Liberal party, after the close of the war with France, pronounced those sentiments. There were then Lord Brougham, Lord J. Russell, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Sir James Macintosh—the great lights of the Liberal party—they were all opposed to the attempt that was then made to make the French war the commencement of a new military system in England. My Lord Panmure has lately made a speech, in which he tells us that they meant to keep an army in England—an army during peace—that is to be ready at ten days' notice to be landed on the Continent; not an army, then, for the defence of our country from foreign enemies, but an army of sufficient size, and in such a state, that it may leave this land, and, at ten days' notice, go campaigning on the Continent. Oh, what a speech! Indiscreet speeches have been rather common of late. (Laughter.) But I do think, that

for a Minister of the Crown to talk in that loose way of landing armies on the Continent in ten days, is very much to be regretted. (Cheers.) What should we say in England, if the French War Minister were to make an announcement that they meant to keep an army in France in such a state of efficiency, that in ten days he should be ready to land an army in England? Why, we should be all in a state of panic. But we think that the world are not so sensitive as ourselves, and that they can view England embarking in a policy of maintaining great aggressive forces without feeling some suspicion of the good faith of England. (Hear, hear.) I do not think such speeches as those from Ministers of the Crown are at all calculated to strengthen our friendly relations with foreign Powers. (Hear, hear.)

I think they are calculated to excite jealousies and suspicions of our objects, and, step by step, perhaps to lead to serious misunderstandings, ending in war itself. (Cheers.) The military establishments, the naval and ordnance establishments, are the only matters in which you can afford to save the public taxation. The civil expenditure, the interest of the debt, must remain pretty much where it is; you can make no material reduction worth talking about in your civil expenditure. Our losses in the Crimea had no more to do with not being prepared for war than they had to do with the conduct of the Tartar Emperor of China. They were prepared, and the British public supported them with money, men, and materials, but the British public could not supply the parties who had the management with brains. (Loud and renewed cheers.) The heaps of dead Englishmen's skulls that they left upon the ground in the Crimea were the result of the incapacity of those who had the distribution of those things that would have kept alive these individuals. Thirty thousand men lost their lives, and 25,000 of these, it has been proved, were sacrificed by being deprived of shelter and food and clothing, and what was absolutely necessary to keep up human existence; when the means of supply were in the harbour of Balaklava, the parties had not the wit to make use of the means at their disposal. All were now acquitted; they have had commissions, they have had committees of inquiry, and nobody was to blame. We are now told that we must never go to war again without being better prepared. A very pretty shuffle all this is, to set at defiance public opinion. (Hear, hear.) After vindicating direct taxation, and urging that it was not the economy that prevailed before the war that was the cause of its disasters, Mr. Gibson concluded by moving—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the re-establishment of peace renders it the imperative duty of the Government to diminish at once the existing load of taxation, which, by injuriously affecting the industrial interests of the country, is seriously detrimental to the material well-being and social happiness of all classes of the community; and that, while pledging itself to relax none of its exertions to procure a wise, efficient, and economical expenditure of the national resources, it looks to a just and comprehensive measure of Parliamentary reform as the only adequate means by which the acts of the Legislature may be brought into permanent harmony with the convictions and interests of the people.

Mr. CHEETHAM seconded the motion.

GEORGE HADFIELD, Esq., M.P., moved the following resolution:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the requirement of our national industry, and the welfare of numerous classes of British subjects, call for an immediate removal of the obstacles which, in our colonies and possessions—especially in India—impede the application of skill and capital to the development of their resources.

He thought it was extraordinary that such a large import of cotton should be obtained from America, while they had such vast tracts of country, and such a large population in India.

Mr. JAMES HEYWOOD, M.P., seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. E. C. WHITEHURST moved—

That this meeting desires to express its conviction that the vote by ballot is necessary to the true representation and good government of the people of this country.

Mr. NICHOLSON, of Victoria, Australia, seconded the resolution, and referred to the eminent success of the ballot in the late elections in the colony from which he had just come, and into whose electoral act he had had the honour of introducing it. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried unanimously, with loud cheering.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSIONERS.

A few weeks since, some of the chief persons connected with the town of Liverpool, including in their number men of all parties, the mayor, the borough members, the chairmen of the principal associations of the town, and three-fourths of the magistracy, determined to express their approval of the services of the Crimean Commissioners, and their thanks for the manner in which those gentlemen had exposed the gross mismanagement of the war. Sir John M'Neill, in his reply to the Secretary, Mr. Ewart, gave vent to the indignant feelings which the sorry requital of his services has roused. "I may be permitted to add," he says, in allusion to the address, "that its value is enhanced by its being the only public document I possess which contains an acknowledgment that any service whatever was rendered by the Commission." The proceedings of the Government, he says, in another place, "appear to have produced a very general impression that the acknowledged fidelity of our report was not in accordance with their wishes, and the feeling thus produced must affect the disposition of the country to entrust to the executive any inquiries connected with the army which may hereafter be called for." On the desire of the War Department to "discredit the Commissioners and neutralise their report," on the subsequent conduct of the Government, as indicating a similar disposition, and on the tardiness of Lord Panmure, who, twelve months after the issue of the report, gave a cold approval

of it in an incidental speech at Arbroath, Sir J. M'Neill remarks in calm but decided language. As to the Chelsea Board, he pronounces a severe opinion: "Of the report of the Board I need only say that I consider it a suitable result of the proceedings which led to it, and which are not calculated, I fear, to impress the people of this country with profound admiration of the taste, the feeling, or the spirit in which they were carried on." In conclusion, the senior Commissioner reiterates his charge of negligence and incapacity. The resources of this country, of the neighbouring Turkish provinces, large fleets of transports, a number of ocean steamships, and unbounded supplies of money were at the command of the British Commander and his subordinates. No part of the army was distant more than seven miles from a secure harbour, and a considerable part was encamped within a mile or two of the port. "Yet the country is expected to believe that it was impossible, by any exercise of talents, energy, or foresight, to provide either sufficient food or sufficient clothing for 20,000 or 30,000 men." Such is the deliberate reply of Sir John M'Neill to an address from the first commercial community in the kingdom. Colonel Tulloch is, by his military position, debarred from so bold an avowal of his sentiments; but he does not hesitate to complain of the Chelsea Board, and to reiterate the truth of all to which he set his hand.

MERCANTILE LAW CONFERENCE.

A mercantile law conference was opened on Wednesday at Willis's Rooms, and was made not a little interesting from the manner in which it was presided over by the veteran Lord Brougham, who appeared to possess all the vigour and health which distinguished him twenty years ago. Among those present were: Lord Stanley, M.P.; Sir E. Perry, M.P.; Mr. A. Pellatt, M.P.; Mr. G. Ridley, M.P.; Mr. Wickham, M.P.; Mr. Craufurd, M.P.; deputations from Liverpool, Hull, Bristol, Dublin, Bradford, Kidderminster, Leeds, Manchester, Warrington, Warwick, Birmingham, Leith, Leicester, and Belfast; and a large attendance of members of the legal profession. In the morning sitting of the conference, the most important discussion was about amendments proposed in our bankruptcy laws, and it was resolved that a deputation should confer with Lord Palmerston on the subject. In the evening, Mr. Heath, of Liverpool, brought forward a suggestion for the establishment of tribunals of commerce similar to those which exist on the Continent; and, after a discussion, there was such an evident diversity of opinion on the subject, that the conference could only resolve to refer it to a general committee. On Thursday, the meeting was occupied in the consideration of the propriety of a codification of our mercantile laws, the registration of partnerships, and the statute of frauds.

On Friday, a deputation, appointed at the conference, waited upon Lord Palmerston at his residence, Cambridge House, Piccadilly. The deputation was headed by Lord Brougham, and included representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Hull, &c., &c.

Lord Brougham stated that the conference had carefully considered the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Laws, and had come to the conclusion that it was absolutely necessary some improvements should take place. They urged that the expenses of the administration of these laws should be materially reduced, and instead of being paid as at present from fees, the charges should be placed upon the Consolidated Fund, certain salaries should be reduced, and certain useless offices abolished. A new system of appeal should be introduced, and bankruptcy and insolvency cases be heard in the same courts, as should also winding up cases. No debtor should be imprisoned until after the case had been heard, instead of imprisonment preceding the hearing, as at present. The conference were also of opinion that Mr. Craufurd's Judgment and Execution Bill should be passed into a law. They were also in favour of a regular registry of partnerships and the establishment of tribunals of commerce.

In reply, Lord Palmerston, with many compliments to Lord Brougham, said that the subjects pointed out should receive the most deliberate attention of Her Majesty's Government. On the part of himself and his colleagues, he thanked the deputation for coming to tell him the result of their deliberations.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

In the Court of Cassation, on Thursday, the appeal of Verger, the assassin of the Archbishop of Paris, was argued by his counsel. Verger appealed against the procedure of the Court which had condemned him to die, and upon the constitutional plea that the opportunity was not given to him to call his witnesses and to make his own defence. The Court of Cassation deliberated two hours and a-half before being able to give judgment. The appeal for a new trial was rejected.

Verger was executed on Friday morning at eight o'clock on the Place de la Roquette. He seems to have clung tenaciously to the hope that he would be banished, instead of executed. Early in the morning the chaplain informed him there was no hope. The wretched man raised himself on his pallet, he held his head down for some instants, and turned it about bewildered, as if he had awoken from some terrible dream. When he became conscious of what was passing, he cried "Impossible, impossible!" The chaplain repeated that, unfortunately, it was too true, and that all was over. At once he became excited, and his excitement rose to fury. "I will not die!" he shouted. "It is impossible that

my appeal and my pardon are both refused—impossible! I cling to life: my life is my own, and you have no right to take it from me!" The chaplain endeavoured to calm and console him, but in vain. He refused to listen to his prayers; he broke out into violence, and reviled the priest with language similar to that which he had used before the Court of Assize. The director of the prison at length interfered. Verger cried, "Give me but an hour—an hour—but one hour—no more. I must write—I must send an express to the Emperor!" The director told him it was impossible. "Impossible! no, I will not die! I will not—I will defend myself to the last! You may murder me in this cell, but from it I will not stir!" At these words he threw himself again on his bed, clung to it with head, hands, and feet, and resisted all attempts to lift him. The gaolers had to be called in, and they were obliged to put on his clothes by main force. During this operation Verger made the greatest resistance, but, finding all his efforts vain, he all of a sudden relaxed and fell into a state of prostration. When bidding farewell to the Director of the Prison and his assistants, he once more implored for one hour "to write to the Emperor." At a few minutes after eight he issued from the prison gate. During the short passage he was supported by the chaplain, the Abbé Hugon, on one side, and on the other by the Director of the Prison and the executioner. As he moved he was heard to utter the words, "Amende honorable—jamais; plus tard." He mounted the steps of the platform slowly, and on reaching it he appeared as if he wished to speak, but any words he uttered were not heard distinctly. It was thought they were "Vive Jésus—Sauve la France! sauve l'Empereur!" He was again exhorted by the attendant priests. He knelt on the ground, and once uttered some words—it is hoped of repentance for his crime, and prayer to Heaven for pardon. He slowly rose, cast a glance in the distance, took the crucifix in his hands and kissed the image of the Saviour; gazed for an instant or two on the cold and clear sky above, flung himself into the arms of the Abbé Hugon, and then surrendered himself to the executioner. He was fastened to the plank, and his neck placed under the instrument of death. At the given signal it fell, flashing in the cold light of the morning, and all was over. The morning was bitterly cold. It had frozen during the night, yet many persons must have remained on the ground throughout to witness the dreadful spectacle. It is stated that Verger had placed himself at the head of a new sect which intended to work its way by a coup d'état, and that his defence, if heard, would have revealed immoralities in connexion with the priesthood which it was not convenient to make public.

M. Billault has reminded the clubs of Paris that "games of chance are strictly prohibited;" that Government has power to inflict penalties; and that even in lawful games the Government would see excessive stakes with strong displeasure, and, if necessary, would use its authority to prevent them."

The *Moniteur* says: "In order to gradually reduce the army to a peace footing, the Emperor has just ordered 46,000 temporary and renewable furloughs to be granted. Similar ones, to the number of 95,000, had been previously issued, making the total of the soldiers thus sent to their homes for an unlimited period, 141,000. These 46,000 new furloughs are to be divided among the classes of 1850, 1851, 1852, and 1853, according to a list drawn up by the Minister of War." The savings in this respect are estimated at 26,000,000f., and in the navy 10,000,000f. With the reductions in nearly all branches of the Administration, it is calculated that the total saving will be 100,000,000f.

Kossuth has his two sons in Paris, the one fifteen years of age and the other twelve. His desire is that they may become accomplished French scholars—the language of France being more universally spoken than any other. One of them has taken ill—dangerously ill, and a telegraph message was sent to London on Saturday week for their mother, Madame Kossuth, to repair instantly to Paris. She applied to the French Ambassador for a passport, stating the circumstances, but a peremptory refusal was given!

M. Bonnechose, Bishop of Evreux, is named Archbishop of Tours, in place of M. Morlot, appointed to Paris.

The Court of Cassation pronounced judgment on Friday upon the appeal from the decision of the Imperial Court of Lyons, with reference to the illegality of distributing electoral bulletins, or voting tickets, without a special permission from the authorities. The judgment of the Court of Cassation is against the liberty of distributing the electoral bulletins. There will be an appeal to a higher court.

It is stated that the French Foreign Office is engaged in examining the validity of the claim of France to the Island of Karrack, in the Persian Gulf, now occupied by our forces.

ITALY.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF AN ARCHBISHOP IN NAPLES.

Accounts from Naples of the 26th state that a priest had attempted to assassinate the Archbishop at Matara during the benediction. The prelate was wounded, and a canon who endeavoured to defend him was killed by the assassin.

The Neapolitan Government has just issued a decree relative to a postal reform; other decrees are announced. The convention signed between the King of Naples and the Argentine Republic is for the cession of a portion of territory to which political prisoners will be sent at the expiration of the delay granted them to choose between a request for pardon and being sent into exile.

Letters from Naples give a sad account of the present state of a city once so brilliant and so gay. The severity of the Government increases to an intolerable pitch, and the King seems determined to withdraw himself altogether from the sight of the victims whom his agents persecute and torture. A letter of a later date states that the King had left Naples for Caserta. "Accompanied by a strong body of cavalry, his Majesty left the city, not by the ordinary route, and instead of taking the railway, as has always been the custom, pursued the high road in a carriage and four. Fear seems to have taken possession of the King's mind. He dreads fire by sea and fire by land; he refuses to travel by steam, and gas fills him with apprehension."

The *Presse* has the following despatch, which is several days later than the letters already published, and shows that the excitement and agitation have gone on increasing:

The theatres are closed; most of the *cafés* and hotels, more than half of the printing-offices, and the greater part of the libraries are also closed. The Custom-house is nearly deserted. Judge of the state in which we are. The letter-boxes are shut, and every person wishing to post a letter must deliver it personally into the hands of a clerk. Since the explosion of the powder magazine and the arrest of Milano, more than 500 persons have been arrested, and of these certainly not more than 100 have been released.

The prisons in Naples are so full, that no more people can be crammed into them.

The news from Sicily is most distressing. At Catania all the shops are shut, and only the military and the police are to be seen in the streets. At Messina, on the 21st and 22nd, several prisoners were embarked, in chains, to be taken for safe custody to a rocky island in the neighbourhood. A general insurrection was apprehended.

Letters from Milan, of the 25th, state that the departure of the Emperor and Empress of Austria, which had been fixed for the 27th, is postponed till February 5th, in consequence of the better feeling which it is expected will be exhibited by the population in return for the amnesty. The hope is now held out that all Austrian deserters will be pardoned, and that public trial will be introduced into the Austrian courts of law. The correspondents on the spot trace these changes to an ascendancy which the civil power in the Government has at last acquired over the hitherto all-powerful military element.

AMERICA.

The United States mail steam-ship Ericsson has arrived, with advices from New York to the 17th ult., but has not brought any specia. On the 18th the Ericsson experienced a most terrific gale from the north to the north-east, and the cold was so intense as to completely cover the ship with ice, large quantities of which formed about the deck.

In Executive Session, the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations have made a favourable report on the Central American Treaty.

The charges of corruption, which have been brought against some members of Congress, continue to excite great attention. Mr. Raymond, the editor of the *New York Daily Times*, was examined by the committee of investigation of the House of Representatives on the 14th. He declined to state the name of the writer of the article in the *Times* of the 6th, in which those charges were publicly made, but avowed his responsibility for it.

The party of Mr. Buchanan has just received a check in the very State that decided his election. The Legislature of Pennsylvania has elected a Republican, Mr. Cameron, to the United States' Senate, over Mr. Forney, the candidate of the Democratic party, and for whom all Mr. Buchanan's personal and political influence was exerted. Mr. Forney has been a most active partisan for many years, and the right hand of the new president in his political operations. The event shows that the Republican party is stronger than any one supposed it to be at the beginning of the battle. It is also another alarm to the South.

The Pennsylvanian Legislature had presented a resolution instructing their Senators to vote for the admission of Kansas as a free state.

The river and harbour of New York continued to be filled with ice, causing considerable damage to vessels, and rendering the navigation hazardous. A barque had been cut through by the ice and sunk.

The Kansas territorial Legislature is in session, but has done nothing important. Governor Geary's message recommends the repeal of several laws, but it is supposed to favour the pro-slavery party. He fully supports the Legislature, and recommends them to take steps for the promotion of a State constitution. It upholds the Nebraska Bill.

From Central America we hear that Walker was in a desperate condition, and it was fully believed would not be able to hold out much longer. He had been beaten on several occasions of late, and the Costa Ricans had seized the river boats running from Greytown to the Lake Nicaragua, and stopped the communication between that place and Walker's forces. An American steamer had arrived at Greytown, with about 150 men and a quantity of provisions for Walker's assistance. They were, however, still remaining at Greytown, having no boats in which to ascend the river. According to another report Walker's army was in good spirits and confident of success, while the allies were fighting among themselves.

The advices from the city of Mexico, to the 2nd of January, are not encouraging. Although the suppression of the Puebla revolt and the simultaneous pacification of the provinces on the Texan frontier by the submission of Vidaurri had relieved the Government from some of its worst difficulties, there were new sources of anxiety. The efforts of the President, General Comonfort, to establish order and uphold mo-

derate principles, continue to be thwarted by the ceaseless intrigues of the clergy and the Reactionist party on the one hand, and the wild views of the extreme Democrats on the other. The belief was that, in case of his being forced to a change, he would choose the Democratic side. The most pressing evil of the moment arose from the position assumed by the mulatto, General Alvarez, the Governor of the province of Guerro, who, thwarted by Congress in some attempts to extend his authority, had incited his followers to ravage several of the principal districts of the country. A series of atrocities had thus been committed which had excited a general panic.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

Copies of the official despatches describing the naval and military operations in the Persian Gulf came to hand with the arrival of the overland mail on Thursday. They include despatches from Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Leeke, Major-General Stalker, commanding the land forces, and Captain Jones, I.N., the political agent. The date of the latest document communicated is the 11th December.

The fleet of transports and men-of-war did not assemble at Bunder Abbas, the first rendezvous, until the 24th November. On the 29th they sailed for Bushire in three divisions; the steam-frigate Feroze, towing two transports, and the corvette Falkland, being first in sight of Bushire. The winds, however, had scattered the ships, and they were not collected again until the 6th December. Before this the governor of Bushire had been notified of the declaration of war; and General Stalker had occupied Karrak with two companies of the 2nd Belooches. On the 7th the fleet dropped down to Hallila Bay, a landing-place about ten miles south of Bushire, and selected as the nearest point of debarkation cliffs running from Hallila to Bushire. A number of the enemy had occupied date groves near the beach; but a few shells from the gun-boats soon drove them away, with the loss of their leader. In consequence of the scarcity of boats, the landing of the troops and stores occupied two days. While this was going on, Admiral Leeke and General Stalker arranged their plan of operations. On the 9th, the land force advanced towards Bushire, its left flank resting on the sea, its right protected by cavalry. The squadron steamed along in line with the troops, except the Assaye, bearing the Admiral, which went ahead. As no animals could be procured, tents and baggage were left in the ships, and the men carried three days' rations in their haversacks. About four miles south of Bushire is the fort of Reshire, the first obstacle in the way of the advance. Finding this well garrisoned, the Admiral pushed his ship within 1,700 yards, and opened fire; driving out about half the garrison. The troops, coming up in line, immediately assaulted and carried the place, after a stout fight with its Arab garrison. Before the charge, Brigadier Stopford had dismounted to lead his regiment, the 64th, into action; but he was killed by a shot before the troops moved. Part of the enemy fled down the cliffs; some were drowned, some fell under the fire of the 4th Rifles; others fled into the plain, and were charged by the cavalry. In this charge Colonel Malet fell: he had saved a wounded Arab from the sabre of a dragoon; in return, the savage clutched a musket and shot him. The entire loss was four officers killed—the two already named, and Lieutenants Utterson and Warren, of the 20th; one officer wounded, Captain Woods, of the same regiment; five men killed, and thirty-five wounded.

Having captured Reshire, the troops remained in the place, while Admiral Leeke carried the squadron into the roadstead. The town and fort were summoned, but the gunners fired on the flag of truce. The Governor offered an apology, and asked for time; but his request was refused. On the 10th, the Admiral caused his ships to take up positions abreast of the batteries. Their commanders, favoured by the high tide, carried them to within 500 yards of the enemy's works, and when the tide fell they were aground in the mud. From this position they played successfully on the batteries; drove the Persian troops into the town; silenced, successively, after a four hours' cannonade, the fire of the outworks and of a high tower, but received many shots in return, damaging to hulls and rigging. When General Stalker came up with the troops, a breach had been made in the tower; and soon the Persian flag-staff was lowered in token of surrender, and the Governor and his suite rode out of the town into the British lines. Then the enemy's troops laid down their arms; and Bushire, being occupied, was declared British property, and a free port. The Admiral admits that the place was stronger than had been anticipated, and that the Persians fought their guns resolutely and well. The captured troops were disarmed and set at liberty some distance inland. The Governor, the Commandant of the place, and the Persian "Minister for Foreign Affairs," [agent for Foreign Affairs at Bushire] were sent to Bombay.

One writer estimates the loss of the Persians, in killed and wounded, at 3,000. "The capitulation," says another writer, "found but little favour with the army, and in the ranks of the 64th especially there were growls of 'No! no!' Assault! assault! and vengeful clutching of firelocks. And afterwards," continues the same authority, "I fear that things were done in the town which were not good to do and are not good to tell."

On his way to Bombay in the Assaye, Admiral Leeke was boarded by the chiefs of an Arab tribe, who offered their aid. They informed him that a body of Persians had collected on the coast to attack our dépôt at Bassadore. The Admiral paid a passing visit to the camp, and shelled the Persians out of it.

The *Gazette of Friday* also publishes a merely

formal communication from the Governor of Bombay to the Secret Committee of the India Board. Besides these, it gives a return of the ordnance taken at Bushire. It appears that there were found in the fortress, after its surrender, ten iron guns, seven brass guns, one brass howitzer, and two brass mortars mounted; ten brass guns and thirty-seven iron guns dismounted, some of which are buried in the mud or lie in the sea, and eleven brass guns, the condition of which is not stated. The number of pieces was in all sixty-nine.

The *Bombay Times* states, that a further force of 25,000 men has been ordered to be got in readiness in India for despatch to Persia, bringing the invading army up to 30,000. By the time it has assembled, "we shall have at least 100,000 men, including camp followers, to feed in a country so destitute of supplies that everything for man and beast must be sent from Bombay." Lieutenant-General Sir James Outram, resident at Lucknow, has returned, before his sick leave had expired, from England, to assume supreme political and military charge.

Le Nord publishes a despatch from Teheran of Dec. 21, which has been received at St. Petersburg. It states that the Persian Government were by that time informed of the English force having taken possession of a fort in the neighbourhood of Bushire, and that 50,000 Persian troops had been sent to the invaded province.

The following is a telegraphic despatch from Constantinople, dated Jan. 23: "Haidar Khan, at the head of a cavalry brigade, has taken Furrash, and is advancing to attack the Persian army under Murad Khan. An English division, under Sir John Lawrence, is marching towards Candahar. New taxes for defraying the war expenses are imposed in Persia."

Reports from Teheran, received by way of Prussia, directly contradict the assertion of our ministerial organs that Persia has accepted the English ultimatum. She has been advised by Russia, according to these reports, to evacuate Herat, and on the other hand, the renunciation by Mirza Achem Khan of his British nationality had removed the chief difficulty to the settlement of Mr. Murray's quarrel with the Government of the Shah.

Private correspondence on the affairs of Persia states a fact of considerable importance. It is said that after the taking of Bushire conferences took place between the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was sent on a special mission from Teheran to the Persian Gulf, and the Commander-in-Chief of the English expedition, who was furnished with all necessary powers. It is positively stated that the result of these conferences was a proposition for peace upon new bases, and that the conditions proposed included the withdrawal by the English of their demand for the dismissal of the present Grand Vizier (for whom it seems the Shah has a particular affection), and a proposal that the English shall be allowed to form a permanent establishment and a naval station on the Persian Gulf. At the date of the last despatches, the answer of the Court of Teheran was looked for, and it was thought that in any case an armistice would be shortly concluded.

It is announced that the French frigate Sibylle, Capt. Simonet de Maisonneuve, which was at anchor in Bombay harbour on Dec. 21, has received orders to proceed to the Persian Gulf.

THE WAR WITH CHINA.

Advices from Hong Kong by the overland mail come down to Dec. 15. Affairs at Canton had undergone but slight alteration, it being apparently Sir Michael Seymour's policy to hold his present position until he receives from home replies to his despatches by last mail. Yeh gives no signs of yielding, and he appears to be supported by the gentry of Canton and its immediate vicinity, and by the mercantile community. Admiral Seymour does not seem to have made much progress. Another fort has, indeed, been taken by the English; but in return the Chinese have set fire to the factories, which appear to have been all but entirely destroyed. The residents had understood that the Admiral undertook to protect the factories; but on the 30th November an ominous manifesto was issued by Mr. Consul Parkes, to the effect that the naval Commander-in-Chief would "do all in his power for the general protection of the factories," but that at the same time it was advisable for individuals to look after their own goods, seeing that they "have at their command facilities largely availed of by other members of the community, for removing their property, if they think it exposed to risk, to places of undoubted security." Whatever was obscure in this epistle had light thrown upon it from the blazing factories on the 14th and 15th of December. The force under Admiral Seymour has proved inadequate to the protection of his countrymen from the rage with which his attacks upon the forts and Canton had inspired the citizens. The destruction of the factories was no child's play; for the houses (the English factories at least) are constructed of granite, in separate blocks, and not easy to be destroyed by mere skulking incendiaries. Nor is this all. The Hong Kong journals intimate that the river swarms with "pirates," against whom the Admiral will have to operate. An English officer and a seaman have been cut off by the inhabitants of a village, and the village destroyed. And at this precise moment discontent, manifesting itself in overt acts, has been excited among the Chinese residents in Hong Kong by the more strict enforcement of a sanitary act. Sir John Bowring, it is stated in the Indian papers, has applied to the Government at Calcutta for a reinforcement of troops. In short, the attack upon Canton is rapidly expanding into a general war with China—a war which threatens to be complicated by the increased activity of the "rebels."

in the two Kwangs. The withdrawal of the Chinese troops ordinarily distributed through the country, with a view to concentrate them in Canton, has been followed by incursions of the "Hak-ka men," and it is affirmed that fifty towns and villages have been destroyed, and 50,000 people deprived of their homes in the course of three weeks. A "rebel" squadron is also said to be anchored in Whampoo Reach.

The *Straits Times and Singapore Journal* of Dec. 23, states that its latest advices from Canton mention that "the British were pouring shot and shell into the city, which place, it was expected, would be completely destroyed in a few days."

The American ships having completed the demolition of the Barrier Forts, had returned to their anchorage. Commodore Armstrong, in a letter to Dr. Parker, says: "Here I presume it will end, and so long as he (the Imperial Commissioner) does not commit any act of violence against our flag or citizens, we should rest upon our arms." His Excellency Yeh, in a despatch of the 5th inst., writes Commodore Armstrong: "From this I see your Excellency has clear knowledge of affairs; there is no matter of strife between our respective nations. Henceforth let the fashion of the flag which American ships employ be clearly defined, and inform me what it is beforehand. This will be the verification of the friendly relations which exist between the two countries." Under date Macao, Dec. 9, Dr. Parker says:—

I have this day resumed correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner, demanding attention to various important subjects which I have chosen to place in abeyance, pending the adjustment of the naval question; among them other instances in which the flag of the United States has been fired on by the Chinese, and the rights of the United States citizens, under treaty, have been brought to his Excellency's notice, who has been informed that, failing to render the satisfaction demanded for the violation of the treaty by the forts of Kiang-Shan, that matter will also be handed over to the Commander-in-Chief of the United States naval forces in China to manage.

The *Gazette of Friday* contains further despatches concerning the operations against Canton, transmitted by Admiral Seymour to the Admiralty Office. We make room for a few extracts. With respect to Governor Yeh, Admiral Seymour says:—

I have had no communication with the Imperial Commissioner, his Excellency having withdrawn the troops from the neighbouring districts, for the protection of Canton. The country is represented to be in the most disorganized state, bands of robbers committing depredations and murder in every direction. I learn that there are from 17,000 to 20,000 troops and militia in the city, but they have not as yet made any offensive demonstration, and even were they to attack the factories, I should have no fear of the result.

The following proclamation by the British Admiral was issued:—

The operations in which the British forces are at present engaged having been occasioned by the unfriendly acts of the Chinese Government, and therefore intended not to affect the people, all the villages around have hitherto been preserved entirely from molestation or attack of any kind on the part of our soldiery. Yesterday, however, two of our men landing at the village of Nanpien were there killed by some Chinese, who sought to gain by this inhuman act the paltry reward offered for the murder of our countrymen by all local authorities. As a warning, therefore, to the other villages, I have burned Nanpien to the ground, but being unwilling to involve the innocent with the guilty, I have spared the lives of its inhabitants. But I hereby make known that I will in every case hold that village or place responsible in which the life of an Englishman shall be thus sacrificed, and will visit it with the same punishment that I have inflicted in this instance.

Repeating the destruction of the factories, Admiral Seymour writes on Dec. 15:—

Last night, about eleven o'clock, a few hours after the departure of my despatches for Europe, the Chinese set fire in several places simultaneously to the houses immediately surrounding the factory, which soon spread to the factory itself; and all the foreign establishments, with the exception of the English factory, have been burnt to the ground. The fire appears to have been checked by the blowing down of the end house of the adjoining block, at the entrance of Hog-lane. Incendiaries were perceived by the officers placing brands in the various houses in the vicinity of the fire, and were fired at by our picquets. The whole of Old and New China streets, with the contiguous portions of the suburbs, have been consumed. The greatest exertions have been used by the officers and men of the force under my command, to check the progress of the flames; but the dryness of the houses, and the absence of an adequate supply of water, with the peculiar mode in which the various Hongs are constructed over vaulted passages, rendered their efforts unavailing. The conflagration will circumscribe our defences, and render necessary a new arrangement of them; but it is my intention to hold the British factory, as I have hitherto done the larger area on which the houses have been destroyed. I write this hurried despatch to go by a private steam vessel, which is likely to overtake the packet at Singapore.

A letter from Shanghai of December 6th says: "In political matters we have nothing fresh to advise, though rumours are current of combined disagreement among the rebels in Nankin. The state of affairs at Canton and the collision which has occurred between the British, American, and Chinese forces has not interrupted the good understanding existing here—the Chinese authorities characterising the rupture there as a local affair. News from Pekin, with the Emperor's decision of the matter, is, however, looked forward to with some anxiety."

INDIA.

The latest dates brought by the Overland Mail from Bombay are to the 2nd January. The news from India proper is, that Dost Mahomed would meet Sir John Lawrence at Peshawur on the 10th December, and that Brigadier Chamberlain had returned to

British territory. He has found "a new and comparatively accessible" route to Cabul by the Kurram Valley.

AUSTRALIA.

The latest news from Melbourne records a terrible tragedy. It appears that Ensign Pennefather of the Fortieth Regiment had, in a fit of insanity, rushed from his rooms armed with a revolver; meeting Ensign Keith, he shot him through the cheek; shot Dr. McCauley, who was reading in the open air; fired at Ensign Lucas, wounding him severely in the jaw; and then blew out his own brains. The evidence at the inquest was conclusive as to Pennefather's insanity.

The intelligence from Melbourne via Panama is to the 31st of October, or a week later than that by the Overland Mail. The gold production had revived with the return of fine weather, and there was a steady demand for imported goods at remunerative prices, which would have been still better but for the accounts received of the consignments to be made from this side in July last. The totals of gold brought by the last escort were 46,030 ounces, and 27,674L coin. The elections for the Victoria Parliament were nearly complete, and the Government party were likely to have a strong majority. From Sydney the dates were to the 25th of October. With regard to the recently discovered goldfield at Dunolly, near the Rock River, it is mentioned that about 20,000 persons were still at work there out of the rush of 40,000 which had first taken place.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

A gold medal has been conferred by the King of the Belgians on Mr. Robert Bell, "in consideration of his valuable literary labours." This recognition of the services of an English writer is one of the many proofs which his Majesty has given of the great interest he takes in the progress of our literature.

The *Pays* states that the Russian authorities at Bessarabia have been ordered to quit Bolgrad on the 1st February.

It is shown by the American papers just received that the grand total value "of real and personal wealth" of the whole of the United States of America, in 1856, amounted to the sum of 11,317,511,972 dols, or nearly 3,000,000,000L The population, at the same time, amounted to 26,964,312 souls.

The *Revue de Paris*, to which some eminent Republican writers, such as M.M. Michelot, Jules Simon, Henri Martin, &c., are contributors, is suspended for a month. It has been prosecuted for having published in one or two recent numbers, a novel objectionable on the score of morality.

The census of 1856 exhibits the population of France as almost stationary in numbers, and with a growing tendency to desert the country for the towns.

The Emperor Napoleon is said to have sent to the young Countess de Morny a magnificent diamond necklace and cross as a wedding present.

A London letter has been received in Paris, stating that Ferukh Khan will be in London about the middle of next month, he having an extraordinary mission to the Court of St. James's, as well as to that of the Tuilleries.

It is rumoured that the Austrian financial deficit for 1856 is 120,000,000 florins: Baron Bruck is said to be in despair at his ill success in combating the monster.

M. Chenol, a gentleman of Paris, is stated to have discovered a process of making steel very quickly and at one-third of the present cost, while particular sorts can be re-produced of identically the same quality.

The *Austrian Correspondence* announces that the convention for the adoption of a uniform monetary system for Germany and the Austrian States was definitively signed at Vienna on the 24th. This treaty will come into operation on the 1st May next, and expire at the end of 1873.

In Prussia an agitation has begun very similar to that against our Income-tax. It is directed against an additional tax on houses, which the Government proposes to meet the increased expenditure for the civil as well as the military service. The committee of the Prussian Landtag, entrusted with the report on the new taxes which the Government wants to impose, is stated to have recommended their rejection, and to have advised that the national expenditure should be cut down.

ANOTHER SMITHFIELD DEMONSTRATION.

On Monday afternoon, another great demonstration of the unemployed artisans connected with the building trades took place in the open space in Smithfield, and, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, upwards of ten thousand persons attended, the great majority of whom appeared to be respectable, hard-working mechanics. Mr. Brien, a house painter, was called upon to preside, and informed the men that it was intended to make another appeal to the relieving officers in all the metropolitan parishes, before any other steps were adopted. Nothing would be done but what was strictly in accordance with law, and great care would be taken to prevent a breach of the peace. (Hear, hear.) Mr. M'Heath addressed the meeting in similar terms, and requested the men, if any of their number should mis-behave themselves on their way to the various unions, to hand over the disorderly to the police. The men belonging to the various unions then formed themselves into distinct bodies, and two of the most intelligent in each were selected as leaders.

At Bow-street Police-court a number of the men complained that they had been refused relief by the relieving officer of St. Giles's. About half a dozen came forward, one by one, to make their statements. In most cases it appeared that they had been offered

admission to the workhouse, and had refused. In the remaining instances they had been told that the relieving officer would call at their homes to inquire into the cases. The relieving officer said that all these cases could be attended to in the course of the evening. Some of the applicants left the court satisfied, but those who had refused to enter the house continued to grumble till the court was cleared.

On the same afternoon, a number of persons, it was said about 850 in number, marched in a body from Lambeth Workhouse to the entrance of Lambeth Police-court, and requested to be taken before the magistrate. A deputation was accordingly admitted, consisting of three persons. Mr. Elliott said, that on a former application of a similar sort, he had sent an officer to the workhouse to request that relief might be given there agreeably to the regulations of the Guardians, but on that occasion they refused to accept the relief offered them and went away. He should now send an officer with them to make the same request, and that was all he could do. Inspector Armsworth, of the L division, said: He was at Lambeth workhouse just before, when the person in the witness-box, who gave the name of Newton, made an application for relief for himself and others, and was offered an order for the admission of himself and family into the workhouse, but this he refused. Mr. Elliott (to the applicant): Why did you refuse this? Newton: Because I didn't want to go into the house. Mr. Armsworth further said, that the parish officers offered to attend to the case of all the applicants, provided they were at the workhouse before twelve on the following day. Mr. Elliott, on hearing this, said it was the business of the parish, and he could not further interfere in the matter; and the parties retired, and marched off.

There was also an immense assemblage of unemployed artisans, which had previously visited the workhouse, outside the Marylebone police-court. A few of them were admitted, and one of their number, named Crabbe, became their spokesman. Mr. Tubbs, on behalf of the board, having entered into a statement of his proceedings in the matter, promised, on the suggestion of Mr. Broughton, that if the men would wait upon him on the following morning, their cases should be gone into individually.

GOSSIP FROM ITALY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ROME, Jan. 10, 1857.

In the absence of any important political transaction, I conceive that a review of the condition of the public mind in this part of Italy would be more likely to interest your readers than any merely local news. But I wish it to be distinctly understood, whenever I speak of the state of parties in Italy, that I never intend to express an opinion of my own, but only to re-echo opinions that I have heard expressed by men who live in the respect of their fellow-citizens, and whose ideas may therefore be fairly taken as representing those of the class who are most likely to possess influence on the future condition of their country. In a former letter from Tuscany, I have had occasion to represent the men of this class as disposed rather to accept things as they are, than to risk any effort at change which might be for the worse, relying in the meantime upon their respective Governments for such administrative ameliorations as might develop the resources of material well-being in the country, and hoping from such development to repair the losses incurred by years of revolution, and to provide resources for such mode of reform as time might offer. It is now my duty to declare, that from all that I can gather from respectable and trustworthy individuals, the same state of feeling is general in the Roman States. Landed proprietors and capitalists seem disposed to unite cordially with the Government in attempting to augment the material resources of the country, and to provide against the severe inflictions of bad harvests and scanty vintages, which have reduced the population of many districts to the depth of misery and to the borders of famine—a state of things which has threatened in many districts to substitute agrarian outrage for revolutionary movement, and has made the communications unsafe at intervals from the number of desperate and starving peasants who are from time to time tempted to seek by violence the bread which their vineyards and olive-yards fail to give them.

In the meantime, all seem to consider that the country has made great progress since the last reign, and point out as evidence the efforts of the Government to promote manufactures and foreign commerce; the encouragement given to commercial associations, which were vigorously suppressed under Gregory XVI., as being likely to conceal political clubs; and finally, the greatly improved state of the common schools, and of the municipal governments, are relied upon by the patriotic of Central Italy as holding out hopes to the next generation, if not of a prosperous, at least of a more durable state of things, than that in which their youth was passed. The attention of the Government appears chiefly directed to the encouragement of manufacturing industry, and to the introduction of new objects of agriculture, to form a subsidiary resource against the repeated failures of the vine and

olive. Great difficulties are, however, encountered in the apathetic adherence of the peasantry to routine, which has already placed their existence in danger from their habit of depending for subsistence upon two or three vegetables. This listless inattention to their own advantage has been carried to an extraordinary extent in the district of Velletri, the inhabitants of which have lately gained a bad name from the extent to which brigandage is prevalent among them. The country around Velletri is so exclusively devoted to vineyards, that the population of the town, to the number of about 12,000, were, and actually are still, dependent for their garden-stuff upon districts at a considerable distance from the town; and although for five years the vines have produced nothing, the infatuated peasants still go on pruning the blackened stumps, and having borrowed all they could of the landowners, now attempt to extort by force the means of life from their neighbours of the town, in whom such a terror has grown up, each man of his neighbour, that no person dare go far from his house after dark, and those who do venture the length of a few streets alone are constantly attacked.

What the Romans chiefly deplore is the want of some few men of great ability among those dignitaries of the Church from amongst whom the Sovereign of the Papal States is in the habit of choosing his counsellors and coadjutors. The members of the Sacred College are all at present men of exemplary life, and some of them eminent for piety and learning; but with the exception of the Secretary of State, Cardinal Antonelli, none has been found equal to the emergencies of the time, and it appears to be desired both by the people and even by the Sovereign, that some man should appear as a counterbalancing influence to the all-reaching power of the Secretary of State himself, who has now, for the space of eight years, had an important share in the honours and dignities of the States of the Church, both in their internal regulation and in their outward relation to foreign Powers and to the Roman Catholic Church. No one has, however, yet appeared able to contest with the Cardinal Secretary the government of the States, and the lion's share of State emoluments, amounting, by direct payment of the due salaries of the various offices he holds, to no less than 60,000 dols. (14,000L) yearly, besides the opportunities of advantage to his family and friends, which are by no means neglected. The path to success to this dignitary was opened by the events of 1848; before that period, he was one of the youngest and least influential of the Sacred College, and indeed sprung from a family of plain country gentlemen near Terracina. People seem to wonder how he attained a place in the college at all. However, during the revolution, he succeeded in making himself useful and better known to Pius IX., at a time when most of the empurpled dignitaries were dispersed or too terrified to act; and when the sovereignty of the Ecclesiastical States was restored to their lawful ruler, the task of restoring order and priestly rule was confided chiefly to the ability of the present Secretary, who has not been since betrayed by any false step to a loss of power, and amid great difficulties and ceaseless intrigues has maintained his post, and I really believe the respect and admiration of those whom his conduct most concerns, for his rule, though absolute, has been firm, and, as seems generally thought, directed for the good of his country, though not without retrospective and prospective views for his friends and himself. It would, it appears, be now exceedingly difficult to shake his power, as the various concordats which have been concluded with the great Catholic Powers are said all to contain clauses providing for the support of the Ministry by whose agency they have been concluded; and moreover, like all able statesmen, the successful Secretary shows a wonderful skill in discrimination of character, and is careful to dispatch on foreign or provincial employment every man who promises to be dangerous. And so the sole Minister sustains the weight of the Roman Church and the Roman State, the other Ministers being little but chief clerks of their departments, and no one dares to oppose his measures or to seek to share his power.

Your readers are aware that, among the distinguished strangers who have sought health and relaxation from care in the mild Roman climate, is the Queen Dowager of Spain. The exiled princess has been well received by the authorities here. There has been exchange of visits in great state between herself and the Pope, and the cardinals resident in Rome have all paid their respects in person, as also have some of the Roman nobles and their ladies. The well-known pride of some of the Roman matrons has been ruffled by an act of attention to the Spanish Sovereign at a ball given by the French general, at which no one of the guests was allowed to enter the refreshment-rooms till the Queen Dowager had partaken of refreshment in company with her hosts alone. This mark of homage, though in accordance with the rules of French etiquette, when Royal personages are enter-

tained by individuals of inferior rank, gave umbrage to some of the proud Romans, who thought it too great an honour for the mother of one of themselves, as a daughter of Maria Christina has married the Prince Del Diego, by no means one of the first of the Roman princes, either for family or wealth.

The papers contain a statement that the Consul at Naples was lately attacked with epilepsy, and a few days ago our Consul here suffered from an attack of the same malady. I believe, however, that both gentlemen have quite recovered from the attacks, and that we are in no immediate danger of being deprived of our protectors.

Postscript.

Wednesday, Feb. 4.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The absence of Her Majesty the Queen from the inauguration of the Session yesterday divested the ceremony of the splendours which usually attend it. When Parliament is opened by Commission there is no procession along the streets, so that the proceedings outside as well as inside the House excited very little interest. In Palace-yard a considerable number of persons assembled, to hear "Big Ben" rung prior to the entrance to the House of Lords of the Commissioners who were entrusted with the delivery of Her Majesty's Speech. Mr. Denison, Q.C., Sir Benjamin Hall, and several members of both Houses were present, and seemed to be well satisfied with the operation.

In the House of Lords there was a pretty full attendance. Not a few of the ladies who were in the body of the House of Lords came in grand toilet, while the strangers' gallery was crowded to excess, many of the occupants being foreigners, and some of them attired in the picturesque costume of the East. Mr. Dallas, the American Minister of the Court of St. James's, and a few other gentlemen, were in one of the side galleries.

Shortly after two o'clock the Lords Commissioners entered, and Mr. Lefevre, the Clerk of the Parliaments, having read the Commission, the Lord Chancellor read Her Majesty's Speech, which was as follows:—

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

We are commanded to assure you that Her Majesty has great satisfaction in recurring again to the advice and assistance of her Parliament.

We are commanded by Her Majesty to inform you that difficulties, which arose in regard to some of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris, delayed the complete execution of the stipulations of that Treaty. Those difficulties have been overcome in a satisfactory manner, and the intentions of the Treaty have been fully maintained.

An insurrectionary movement which took place in September last, in the Swiss Canton of Neufchâtel, for the purpose of re-establishing in that Canton the authority of the King of Prussia as Prince of Neufchâtel, led to serious differences between his Prussian Majesty and the Swiss Confederation, threatening at one time to disturb the general peace of Europe.

But Her Majesty commands us to inform you that, in concert with her august ally the Emperor of the French, she is endeavouring to bring about an amicable settlement of the matters in dispute, and Her Majesty entertains a confident expectation that an honourable and satisfactory arrangement will be concluded.

In consequence of certain discussions which took place during the Conferences at Paris, and which are recorded in the Protocols that were laid before you, Her Majesty and the Emperor of the French caused communications to be made to the Government of the King of the Two Sicilies, for the purpose of inducing him to adopt a course of policy calculated to avert dangers which might disturb that peace which had been so recently restored to Europe.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that the manner in which those friendly communications were received by his Sicilian Majesty, was such as to lead Her Majesty and the Emperor of the French to discontinue their diplomatic relations with his Sicilian Majesty, and they have, accordingly, withdrawn their Missions from the Court of Naples.

Her Majesty has directed that papers relating to this subject shall be laid before you.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she has been engaged in negotiations with the Government of the United States, and also with the Government of Honduras, which she trusts will be successful in removing all cause of misunderstanding with respect to Central America.

Her Majesty has concluded a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce with Siam, which will be laid before you.

Her Majesty commands us to express to you her regret that the conduct of the Persian Government has led to hostilities between Her Majesty and the Shah of Persia. The Persian Government, in defiance of repeated warnings, and in violation of its engagements, has besieged and captured the important city of Herat.

We are commanded by Her Majesty to inform you that a British naval and military force dispatched from Bombay has taken possession of the Island of Karrack, and of the town of Bushire, with a view to induce the Shah to accede to the just demands of Her Majesty's Government. Her Majesty has seen with satisfaction that the naval and military forces employed on this occasion have displayed their accustomed gallantry and spirit.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that acts of violence, insults to the British flag, and infraction of Treaty rights, committed by the local Chinese authorities at Canton, and a pertinacious refusal of redress, have rendered it necessary for Her Majesty's officers in China to have recourse to measures of force to obtain satisfaction.

Those measures had, up to the date of the last accounts, been taken with great forbearance, but with signal success as regards the conflicts to which they had led.

We are commanded to inform you that Her Majesty

trusts that the Government of Pekin will see the propriety of affording the satisfaction demanded, and of faithfully fulfilling its Treaty engagements.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,
Her Majesty has directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you.

They have been prepared with every attention to economy, and with a due regard to the efficient performance of the public service at home and abroad.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that Bills will be submitted to your consideration for the consolidation and amendment of important portions of the law; and Her Majesty doubts not that you will give your earnest attention to matters so deeply affecting the interests of all classes of her subjects.

Her Majesty commands us to recommend to your consideration the expediency of renewing for a further period the privileges of the Bank of England, the conditions imposed on the issue of bank-notes in the United Kingdom, and the state of the law relating to joint-stock banks.

Her Majesty commands us to express the gratification which it affords her to witness the general well-being and contentment of her people, and to find that, notwithstanding the sacrifices unavoidably attendant upon such a war as that which has lately terminated, the resources of the country remain unimpaired, and its productive industry continues unchecked in its course of progressive development.

Her Majesty commits with confidence the great interests of the country to your wisdom and care, and she fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your deliberations, and prosper your counsels for the advancement of the welfare and happiness of her loyal and faithful people.

Their lordships again met at five o'clock. The attendance of peers was very large.

The Bishops of LONDON and GLOUCESTER took the oaths and their seats. Lord Belper took the oaths and his seat, being introduced by Lord Overstone and Lord Glenelg.

THE ADDRESS.

The Earl of CORK moved, and the Earl of AILIE seconded the address, in reply to the speech from the Throne.

The Earl of DENBIGH, in reference to the speech from the Throne, said he could only entertain a hope for the future, that Her Majesty's Government had in preparation something more than they promise, for a more meagre bill of fare, or a more vague and shadowy portrait he never remembered than that presented in the few paragraphs of the speech which referred to domestic affairs. After noticing the several paragraphs of the address he expressed a confident hope that Parliament would insist on a full and entire carrying out of the pledge—that in 1860 the income-tax should cease to be imposed. (Hear, hear.) He expressed dissatisfaction with the references to foreign affairs, in the Queen's speech, criticised the late arrangement with Russia on the Bolgrad question, and defended the pretensions of the King of Prussia relative to Neufchâtel. After noticing the Central American question, he said:—

I now turn to other topics of difficulty which crowd upon us, and will continue to crowd upon us as long as the noble viscount is at the head of affairs—(laughter)—because, admitting as I do the extraordinary adroitness by which he gets out of difficulties, I cannot but imagine that the fact of his getting out of difficulties with adroitness inspires him with the desire of getting into as many as possible. ("Hear," and laughter.) I cannot account for the fact in any other way that, whether as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or as the head of the Government, he has embroiled the Government first with one country and then with another, not indeed in great wars but in little difficulties, which the country gets out of with credit or advantage, or with loss or discredit.

Lord Derby condemned our meddling in Naples, and thought that it was no part of our business to interfere in the relations between Austria and her Italian subjects. He was not a supporter of the tyrannical measures of the King of Naples, nor did he defend the state of things in Naples, or in the Papal States, but he thought matters had been made infinitely worse in Naples, Rome, and Spain, by our interference. In condemning the Neapolitan intervention he was not attacking the policy of France:—

I have a profound admiration for the Emperor of the French, not only on account of his great talents and ability, but for his scrupulous adherence and fidelity in his engagements with this country. (Cheers.) I do not think I am going too far when I say that the Emperor of the French is about the only cordial friend you have in Europe; but the Emperor of the French may fall into errors, and I think he has done so in this case.

Speaking of the Persian war, he said that though

Russia might have stimulated Persia to harass and insult us when she was our enemy, he believed her efforts now to be in a different direction; and, that if Persia ever did come into our terms, it would be much more due to the representations of Russia than to the effect of that expedition which they had sent against her shores. The war with Persia was a war entered into by direction of the Government at home—it is not an Indian war, but a British war; and if so, it ought to have been proclaimed in the ordinary way, and announced at the very earliest moment to Parliament. He then commented on the Canton affair:—

I am lost in astonishment at the proceedings which have characterised that war—a war by courtesy it may be called, yet accompanied by proceedings unknown in civilised warfare, and which I heard with utter astonishment characterised by the noble earl opposite as being marked by great forbearance. (Hear, hear.) What is the case? I do not say that the Chinese have not violated the treaty; but I consider it exceedingly doubtful whether that lorcha, the Arrow, was under the protection of the flag of this country. (Hear, hear.) If not, the whole case falls to the ground. Sir John Bowring admits that the time for which it was licensed to carry that flag had expired. But he says the Chinese did not know that it had expired. But what then? He says again that, by virtue of the colonial registry, she was

entitled to the benefit of that flag till her return from her voyage. Now, I very greatly doubt the legal validity of the colonial register on which Sir John Bowring relies. (Hear, hear.) I am sure that there is infinite danger in permitting to authorities at a very great distance an unlimited power of granting British protection, and thereby enabling the parties enjoying it to claim the intervention of the British power in their support.

What has Sir John Bowring, the British representative, done?

He takes upon himself to enter upon hostilities of the most aggravated description. (Hear, hear.) He not only destroys and demolishes the forts, with very little resistance from these unfortunate Chinese, but he goes a step further, and in the exercise of that forbearance so much lauded by Her Majesty's Ministers—(hear, hear)—in a time of peace—for no war had been legally proclaimed—I believe without notice—by his own authority, without the sanction of the crown, he proceeds to order the admiral upon the station—to do what? You took great credit, in the time of the late war, for your humanity in sparing Odessa. (Hear, hear.) You were told that that town was full of military stores and the munitions of war. "No (you said), it is contrary to the usage of civilised nations to destroy a commercial town." You pushed the principle of humanity I think too far. You spared Odessa; you would not bombard Odessa even in the height of a war in which the powers of this country were taxed to the uttermost. (Hear, hear.) While here, in a little petty war, undertaken without the sanction of the crown, without any legal declaration of war, you not only destroy the forts, but you bombard a peaceable town, and commit indiscriminate slaughter—(hear, hear)—a town with which you have had no relations but those of commerce—a town which could afford no support to your enemy—a town the destruction of which is an act of signal cruelty, and an act almost as destructive of your own pecuniary and commercial interests as of those of the Chinese. (Hear, hear.) Then I am told that this bombardment of a peaceful town, under an unlawful war, not declared by the Crown, not having the sanction of the Ministers of the Crown, is an act of signal forbearance on the part of the authorities there. (Hear, hear.) Upon this transaction I would fain draw a veil, and await the beneficial results that are to ensue. At all events, if those results are to flow, they have, perhaps, been the real object of the hostilities; and then you have gone to war upon a false pretence. (Hear, hear.) But I do not believe that you will gain by it. I doubt very much whether such a treaty will be the result as will benefit or increase your trade, which, as we have been told by the seconder of the address, has increased to such an extraordinary extent in the last few years. If you want to cultivate good relations with these people, and to overcome their reluctance to receive outside barbarians and treat them as friends, certainly to burn their houses over their heads and indiscriminately massacre them is not the way to do it. (Hear, hear.)

The Earl of CLARENDON followed. He defended the course taken by the Government respecting the Treaty of Paris. The difference with Russia was settled as he might say by an arrangement out of court. The Emperor of the French proposed a plan, which was agreed to by the several parties; and by this agreement the original Bolgrad remained to Russia, the object of the treaty was fully maintained, and Russia was not brought nearer the Danube. (Hear, hear.) She obtained a small addition to her Bessarabian frontier, with a small town which would henceforth be the capital of the district. He defended the course pursued respecting Naples, though they had no wish for a change of system, nor a change of dynasty. Since the withdrawal of the French and English ministers from that court, there had been various acts of amnesty, and those acts were to be extended to all who asked for them, and promised to behave better for the future. A treaty had likewise been entered into between the King of Naples and the Argentine Confederacy, by virtue of which all political prisoners who chose of their own free will would be at liberty to go to South America. He had reason to believe that every one of the great powers of Europe had each in its own way adopted a course similar to that pursued by her Majesty's Government and by the Emperor of the French. He defended at some length our war with Persia, and said that the capture of Herat was the sole cause of the war. If that city were annexed to Persia Afghanistan could not be independent. Our Indian possessions were maintained solely by our character, our prestige, and our resolution not to suffer our rights to be infringed. To preserve that prestige her Majesty's Government had been compelled to go to war; and he was persuaded that they would have the support of Parliament. (Cheers.) Lord Clarendon then made this important statement:—

The Persian ambassador at Paris had solicited an interview with Lord Cowley, which took place two days ago. The ambassador showed a great desire to settle existing differences; and he also exhibited full powers to treat. Under these circumstances, he received from Lord Cowley the conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to enter into negotiations, and he (Lord Clarendon) could have no doubt that these negotiations would be entered upon, and would ultimately lead to a successful result. Her Majesty's Government had no desire to injure Persia; all that they cared about was a sufficient guarantee that the negotiations should come to the earliest possible conclusion, and that the peace to which they might lead should be a sound and permanent one. (Cheers.)

The noble lord then defended the proceedings of the British authorities at Canton:—

There could not be the smallest doubt with regard to the lorcha, that she was, to all intents and purposes, a British vessel. She was owned, it was true, by a Chinese, but she had an English master. The noble earl expressed a strong opinion that her register was an illegal one; but these registers had been submitted to the law officers of the Crown, and there was no reason whatever for saying that they were not in accordance with the law of these realms. The register of the lorcha, the Arrow, it was quite true, had expired four or five days; but that fact did not confer upon the Chinese police any

right to board her and take her in tow as they had done. The vessel too had her name painted upon her in large Roman and Chinese characters. This lorch, then, was considered to be a British vessel by the British authorities at Canton, and she had been acknowledged to be such by the Chinese commissioner, who admitted that from the day she was launched she had been in possession of a British register. That being so, the Chinese police went on board of her, to claim one of her crew of fourteen, who was suspected of piracy, and to make quite sure, seized twelve of the crew. The master protested against this act, and the British consul threatened violence if reparation was not made. An application was made to the chief commissioner; but that application was only treated with contempt. Subsequently, however, the commissioner sent a portion of the crew back, but the British consul very properly declined to receive them; for if he had accepted anything short of his claim, his forbearance would only have been attributed to fear, and would have contributed to further insults. The British authorities were not at all disposed to carry matters with a high hand; they only insisted on the men being restored, to be dealt with in conformity with the terms of the treaty. That not being done, the matter was placed in the hands of the admiral, who took possession of a junk. Before sanctioning any further steps the Government took care to have the opinion of their legal advisers. The Queen's Advocate gave a very decided opinion upon the illegality of the conduct of the Chinese; and upon that opinion the Government wrote to Sir John Bowring and to the admiral. Still the imperial commissioner absolutely refused redress, and then the admiral took further steps. There was no bombardment of the town or indiscriminate slaughter. The admiral destroyed a fort, and then waited for two or three days; then he destroyed another, and so on, till all the fortifications were demolished. (Hear, hear.) It was non-access to the Chinese authorities which had led to all the mischief. For want of that our merchants were obliged to employ native, and not always honest, agents. They could get no redress for their grievances; and, in a word, so long as foreigners were not allowed to see the authorities there could be no improvement, social, political, or even commercial. (Hear, hear.)

The commissioners from the United States had got orders to take an active part with them; and he saw a letter from Washington that morning, in which it was stated that the news about Canton had been received with universal approbation. He hoped that the war with China would in this, as in the former instance, be successful, and that it would lead to a great extension of their trade with the Chinese nation.

Earl GREY could not agree in the portion of the address which had reference to Persia, and intimated that he would move an amendment on that passage. He found the paragraph referring to Persia was so drawn up that it virtually assumed the policy and justice of the war, and believing that it was neither just nor politic, he could not concur in the address. He also objected to concur in it, because the war with Persia had been declared without her Majesty's Government applying for the support or advice of Parliament, and he thought that was a point that should be noticed. (Hear, hear.) He submitted that the war was not only impolitic but unjust. In conclusion, he moved the omission from the address of the passage relating to Persia, and proposed the insertion of a paragraph declaratory of their regret that Parliament was not called together and apprised of the intention of Government before orders were given for the invasion of Persia. (Hear, hear.)

The Earl of GRANVILLE denied that England had been the aggressor in the war with Persia; on the contrary, Persia had been the aggressor. As to the complaint that the proclamation was irregular, a similar course had been taken by a Government of which the noble earl was a member.

Lord BROUHAM said that while anxious for further information, he would say that he wholly approved of the course taken by the Government, inasmuch as they had not gone too far.

The LORD CHANCELLOR stated that amongst other legal measures which would shortly be brought forward, was one for the reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts; another had reference to the laws of marriage; and a third would relate to criminal breaches of trust, which had so much excited the public mind of late.

The House then divided on Earl Grey's amendment—

Contents	45
Non-contents	12
Majority against the amendment	—33

The Address was then declared to be carried, and their Lordships adjourned at eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

When the House of Commons re-assembled at four o'clock, the following members took the oaths and their seats—Lord Henniker, for East Suffolk, Viscount Castlerosse, for the county of Kerry, Mr. Bailie Cockrane, for Lanarkshire, and Mr. Langworthy, for Salford. New writs were issued for Greenwich, Hertford, Limerick, Aylesbury, Bute, Southampton, Newport, Clonmel and Dumfries, West Kent and Brandon.

Mr. HAYTER announced that on Thursday next the Secretary for the Colonies would move for a select committee to consider the state of the British possessions in North America, which were under the administration of the Hudson's Bay Company, or over which they possessed license to trade. On the same day the Colonial Secretary would move for leave to introduce a bill entitling the subjects of the Roman States to hold commissions under the Crown; and also a bill relating to the ecclesiastical government of Norfolk Island. On Friday, the 6th February, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would move for a select committee to inquire into the operation of the Bank Act of 1844, and the Irish and Scotch Acts of 1845, and also into the laws relating to joint-stock banks. (Hear, hear.) On Monday, February 9, the Home Secretary

would introduce a bill to amend the Acts 16 and 17 Vic. c. 99, entitled an Act to substitute other punishments in lieu of transportation. (Hear.) And on the same day he would ask leave to bring in a bill to facilitate the establishment of reformatory schools in England.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND gave notice that on the 16th February he should move resolutions preparatory to the expulsion from that House of Mr. James Sadleir—Mr. ROEBUCK, that on Tuesday next he should move for a committee on the subject of secondary punishments and transportation—Sir W. CLAY, that on Thursday, the 12th, he should move for leave to introduce a bill for the abolition of Church-rates—Sir J. PAKINGTON, that on Thursday, the 17th, he should move resolutions for the promotion of education.

THE ADDRESS.

Sir JOHN RAMSDEN moved, and Sir A. AGNEW seconded, the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. DISRAELI then addressed the House. At the close of the late war, he said, there was an apparently sound foundation for permanent tranquillity, such as had not existed since the European settlement of 1815. Why were not the measures of domestic and social progress, the alleviation of public burdens, and the proper employment of capital, for which such a period was peculiarly adapted, carried out and realised—why, instead of these matters filling the Queen's Speech, had we to-day a speech of war and rumours of war? (Hear, hear.) Was this what the country expected from the treaty of Paris? Before the ink of its signatures was dry, the seed had been sown of new troubles, which had since produced a plentiful crop. Would it be believed that, all this time, a secret treaty was in existence, guaranteeing to Austria the whole of her Italian dominions? (Hear, hear.)

Lord PALMERSTON: What power?

Mr. DISRAELI replied, France had guaranteed to Austria her Italian possessions. The existence of this secret treaty was not denied, though now mentioned for the first time. What Power was it? The partner of Lord Palmerston in the emancipation of Italy. Mr. Disraeli alluded in sarcastic terms to the Neapolitan intervention, the Bolgrad settlement, and the Swiss difficulty. If they asked the noble lord what reform measures were to be proposed, he would refer them to a late noble colleague of his—(laughter)—and if they asked what was to be done in administrative reform, he would say, "I am an administrative reformer, what more do you want?" (Hear, hear.) Two great difficulties had been created—the Persian difficulty and the Chinadifficulty. He could not understand the necessity of a war with Persia. It was his intention to move for the diplomatic correspondence that has taken place on the question of this war, and he believed it would be found that Russia had made every effort to preserve peace, and had even counselled Persia to give up Herat. (Cheers.) With regard to the war with China, he doubted whether the flimsy excuse before the public was the true reason for the futile proceedings, but was inclined rather to attribute them to instructions sent from home a considerable time since. Mr. Disraeli then referred to the question of the Income-tax, and stated his opinion that an immediate alteration was called for. He understood that it was not the intention of the Government to hold to the letter of the arrangement with regard to the termination of the war addition to the income-tax; but that was a question upon which there should be no doubt. He proposed, if it met the convenience of the House, to ask their consent that day fortnight to resolutions expressing the opinion that the war portion of the tax should be discontinued, and that the settlement of Mr. Gladstone of 1853 should be adhered to. He did not wish too extensive a reduction of the existing establishments, but he warned the House and the country against the maintenance of a great military power under the control of one man. (Cheers.)

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that his intention was to take the first opportunity, after the Army and Navy Estimates should have been submitted to the House, and undergone some debate, to make the annual financial statement, which would have enabled the House to judge of the probable expenditure for the coming year, and of the means the Government would propose of meeting the expenditure. He hoped that that course might be satisfactory to the House.

Mr. GLADSTONE rose, after a considerable pause. It was strange, he said, that whenever Lord Palmerston was at their head ten quarrels occurred for one at other times. We always began with bold and braggart, and high-sounding pretensions; and in every case the quarrel closed by our coming down very nearly to the terms of our adversaries. As to China, whatever the rights and the wrongs of the complicated transactions which have lately occurred there, they had caused the sacrifice of the lives of hundreds and thousands of helpless, unoffending creatures, subjects of the Power that did not enter into our ideas of civilisation. With regard to Persia, he asked, by whose authority had the war been waged? The source, he believed, was elsewhere than Calcutta. If ordered by Government, he asserted that they ought to have called Parliament together at the time. (Hear, hear.) He adhered to his old opinion that the Income-tax was an admirable instrument in cases of emergency, but that it was a dangerous instrument for general use. (Applause.) Assuming the reductions contemplated in the army and navy to leave the total for the two services at 23,000,000*l.*, he denounced that expenditure as far exceeding what could fairly be warranted by the exigencies of a peace establishment, especially now that the extension of the police force to the counties and boroughs had enabled us to

get on with a smaller military force at home, while the concession of free institutions ought to have produced the same effect on the colonies, imposing the duty of self defence on those to whom we had granted the right of responsible government. To reduce expenditure, with a view to diminishing that burden of taxation which is now pressing on the country to a degree that is already detrimental, and may soon become dangerous, was the main argument of Mr. Gladstone's address. With regard to the resolutions of which Mr. Disraeli had given notice, he thought that the pledges which were given in 1853 should be adhered to, and he should therefore give his vote for the right honourable gentleman. (Cheers.)

Lord PALMERSTON made an off-hand and humorous reply to Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. DISRAELI. In reference to the assertion that there was a secret treaty by which France, with the concurrence of England, had guaranteed Austria in the undisturbed enjoyment of all her Italian possessions, he said there was no such treaty—there never had been such a treaty—or if so, he at all events knew nothing about it. His firm conviction was, that the whole thing was a myth, engendered in the fertile brain of the Asiatic mystic by the wicked hints of the arch Parisian mystifier. It was asked whether the Home Government or the Company was responsible for the movement which had been made against Persia, certainly the Home Government was responsible, and would not shrink from the responsibility. The policy of the Government in this case was precisely similar to that pursued while the right honourable gentleman himself was in power. With regard to China, they were following the policy commenced by Sir Robert Peel. The right honourable member for the University of Oxford had presented to the House a budget in anticipation of that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. (Laughter.) He would recommend that the discussion on the estimates should be postponed till the estimates were before the House. Experience had proved the necessity for maintaining scientific establishments in time of peace, and the improvements in the navy, by the employment of steam line-of-battle ships, increased the expense not only of equipping, but also of maintaining a fleet. There could be no objection on the part of the Government in keeping up larger establishments than were necessary for the public service, and he recommended the House to suspend its judgment on the subject of the estimates till the estimates were in the hands of members.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL chiefly confined his attention to Italy. He thought the policy of the Government there had not been sufficiently bold. The state of Naples was greatly deteriorated. Prisoners were numerous; fear was painted on the faces of those who are yet at liberty. This was the result of our interference. His lordship spoke of the general condition of Italy, much of the evils of which he attributed to the towns being garrisoned and governed by foreigners. Of Bologna, in particular, now for eight years in foreign occupation, he gave a revolting account. The withdrawal of foreign troops he regarded as the first step to the regeneration of Italy; and in Piedmont he cited an illustration of this portion of his opinion of Italy. The state of Italy generally was not only one of wretchedness to the inhabitants, but of danger to Europe. England, he trusted, would assist in the regeneration of that unhappy country. He trusted that no material alteration would be made in the existing system of our army and navy.

After some remarks from Mr. MILNER GIBSON, who ably criticised the Royal Speech, Mr. HADFIELD, and Mr. V. SMITH,

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON asked whether there was any objection to alter the wording of the paragraph of the Address relating to China, so that the House should not be understood to pledge itself to an opinion on the subject.

Lord PALMERSTON agreed to an alteration with this view.

The Address was then agreed to.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past twelve.

The newly-created office of Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education will be filled by Mr. Cowper, who will be succeeded as President of the Board of Health by Mr. Monsell, late Secretary of the Ordnance.

The City Commission of Sewers, at their meeting yesterday, unanimously agreed to oppose the Finsbury-park Bill if it should attain to a second reading in the House of Commons. The ground of opposition is the additional charge on the ratepayers of the City which is proposed by the bill.

Peter McLean, convicted of the murder of Thomas Maxwell, miner, on the road leading from Bathgate to East Whitburn, in Linlithgowshire, on the 16th of November last, was hanged at Linlithgow on Monday morning.

I learn that orders have been sent to Toulon for the immediate departure of a fleet for China. I have not heard what the precise force is to be, but four vessels of the line are spoken of, besides frigates and steamers.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent.*

It is stated from New York, Jan. 20, that the new treaty with England has been favourably reported on, and is likely to be ratified by the Senate.

MARK-LANE—THIS DAY.

A very moderate supply of English wheat was on sale in today's market. For most kinds there was a fair, but by no means active, demand, at Monday's currency. Most of the samples came to hand in rather better condition. Only 48 quarters of foreign wheat have arrived this week; but the show of samples was extensive. Importers were very firm in their demands, and late rates were well supported. The barley trade was dull, at Monday's currency. The malt trade was heavy, at barely previous quotations. There was a fair inquiry for oats, at full prices. Beans, peas, and flour sold to a moderate extent, on former terms.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Homo."—We cannot take upon us the responsibility of publishing his letter. The very use of the lash in such a case would but call attention to an outrage of which the perpetrator is plainly past feeling, and the victim would be likely to feel all the more deeply for any public reference to it.

"An Enemy to the Cane" travels out of the record. When we insert a public report, it is open to any of our readers to challenge its accuracy. But we cannot be expected to open our columns to objections which relate to other matters. The paper would else be flooded with such communications.

"Cantabrigiensis."—We have done with the subject.

"W. Allen."—We are sorry we cannot afford him space—an apology we have also to make to "John Livingston."

Several communications are unavoidably excluded by the pressure upon our columns.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1857.

SUMMARY.

PARLIAMENT was opened yesterday with a Speech from the Throne delivered by Commission. We can almost imagine that Her Majesty must have been pleased that domestic reasons prevented her from delivering an address which had so slight a reference to the welfare of her subjects, abounded more than ordinarily in common-place paragraphs, and was almost entirely devoted to foreign questions. It is a Palmerstonian speech—a faithful reflection of that policy which manages to keep this country in continual difficulties with other Powers, and unsettles continental sovereigns without permanently helping their subjects. Lord Derby sensibly said that in the good old days a stereotyped Speech from the Throne contained the only reference to foreign affairs: "His Majesty or Her Majesty was happy to inform Parliament that he or she continued to entertain the most friendly relations with all foreign Powers, and that single paragraph would, on the present occasion, afford more satisfaction to the people of this country and better security for the peace of Europe, than the multitudinous paragraphs in the present Speech with reference to disputes and questions more or less complicated." It is customary in the present day to frame the Speech from the Throne so as to avoid opposition; but, on the present occasion, this practice has been so far departed from, as that an opinion is expressed with respect to the policy of our rupture with Persia, and the Chinese authorities are condemned beforehand for "acts of violence, insults to the British flag, and infraction of treaty rights," which it is by no means clear were committed.

While the House of Commons, though by no means unanimous in support of the Address, allowed it to be carried without formal opposition, after a strong and unequivocal expression of adverse opinion, the Upper House pursued a more decided and consistent course. The Earl of Derby made a lively and vehement attack on the foreign policy of the Government, but declined to follow it up by any practical action. But Earl Grey's less elastic conscience would not permit him to acquiesce in the sentiments expressed relative to the war with Persia. He moved that the paragraph of the Address which re-echoes the Royal Speech should be omitted, and replaced by one condemning the declaration of war against Persia, without summoning Parliament. The motion was rejected by 45 to 12, after which the Address was adopted without further opposition. Last night's debate in the Upper House proves that even their lordships, in their serene elevation, are not steeled against the impulses of humanity. In his eloquent denunciation of the insolence, rashness, and barbarity of our authorities at Canton, Lord Derby elicited a cheer of cordial, generous sympathy, such as is rarely

echoed in that inert assembly. The leader of the Opposition has given full effect to the programme put forth by the *Quarterly Review*, and but for a few expressions of sympathy with continental courts, his speech might have been delivered by a politician of the Manchester school. Lord Derby calls for retrenchment of our military expenditure; for a repeal of the income-tax in 1860; and for non-interference with other States; and has explained his views in an oration calculated to elevate him in public estimation.

The address of Lord Clarendon merits attention from his official position as Minister for Foreign Affairs. The two subjects to which he chiefly directed his attention were the wars with Persia and China. He entirely denied that the former arose out of the diplomatic quarrels of Mr. Murray with the Court of Teheran, and assigned the capture of Herat by Persia, in violation of treaty engagements, as the sole cause of our hostile operations. His arguments on this point were ably replied to by Earl Grey. Lord Clarendon's speech, however, contains a welcome piece of information confirmatory of the report we alluded to last week. He states that the Persian Ambassador now in Paris has full power to enter into negotiations with the British Government with a view to a pacific settlement. "Her Majesty's Government have not hesitated to say that we shall be prepared to enter into negotiations, and if the powers of the Persian Ambassador be such as I believe they are, there is every reason to believe that those negotiations will be brought to a favourable termination." We trust these anticipations may be realised. Our Foreign Secretary, it will be seen, takes the whole responsibility of the Canton outrage, and defends the course pursued by Sir John Bowring and Admiral Seymour.

The announcement of Government measures last night makes up to some extent for the omissions of the Speech from the Throne. There are to be Bills for amending the laws relating to marriage and divorce, testamentary jurisdiction, and ecclesiastical law; to amend the act substituting other punishment for transportation; to facilitate the establishment of reformatory schools in England; and a measure to meet such cases of fraud as those of Redpath and Robson. Select committees are also to be appointed on the Bank Charter Act and the privileges of the Hudson's Bay Company. Of course, the question of parliamentary reform is not to be touched, and there is no reason for expecting any educational measure from the present Government; but Sir John Pakington is, on the 17th, to move for leave to bring in a Bill "to promote elementary education in cities and corporate town." The re-introduction of Sir W. Clay's Bill of two years ago, for the total abolition of Church-rates, may be taken as an indication that Ministers have no intention to deal with that grievance.

The details of the fall of Bushire leave a strong impression of the forethought and skill with which the British expedition was arranged and carried out—the secret of which is probably to be found in the fact that our Indian army is a well-organised and well-officered force, and not a refuge for aristocratic loungers. Our authorities in the Persian Gulf have pursued a characteristic course in declaring Bushire a *free port*—with the possible intention of a permanent occupation. Though our casualties appear to have been trifling, it is calculated that the unsuspecting "enemy" lost some 3,000 men in killed and wounded in defending their soil against the invader.—In China, Sir John Bowring and Admiral Seymour are pursuing the reckless and inhuman policy they have inaugurated. Exasperated by the uncalled-for bombardment, the Chinese have burnt the foreign factories—in revenge the Admiral has commenced shelling the crowded city! Such is the style of warfare of the representatives of Christian England. Two sailors were killed in a village by some Chinese—Admiral Seymour retaliates by burning down the village. Is this the "forbearance" alluded to in the Royal Speech?

The Mercantile Law Conference has proposed extensive and valuable improvements in the Court of Bankruptcy, to which Lord Palmerston promises his deliberate consideration. Bankruptcy reform is as necessary as was Chancery reform a few years since. Leadenhall-street almost ignores creditors, but works admirably for officials and practitioners. How urgent the need for thorough reform has become, is manifest in the fact that the Bankruptcy Courts at present swallow up something like forty per cent. of every estate that comes under their jurisdiction!

Manchester has once more unfurled the banner of retrenchment and parliamentary reform—questions which are not likely to slumber in this, probably the last, session of the present Parliament. But radicalism is not confined to the manufacturing districts—at least in ecclesiastical matters. Churchmen, aye, consecrated bishops, shame Dissenters by their disregard of sacerdotal prejudices and hurtful superstitions. How many a Dissenting minister would be shocked at his chapel being used for any other than a re-

ligious purpose. Yet the Bishop of London himself, in company with the High Church Mr. Gladstone, comes forward to support and defend a "school-church" in the east of London—a building which is to fulfil the threefold purpose of a church, a school, and a place of amusement! Dr. Tait has set a useful fashion, and read a lesson even to the upholders of unconsecrated places of worship.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In obedience to the Royal summons, Parliament re-assembled yesterday. We have taken no pains to ascertain what may have been the expectations of the country in regard to the session, nor what the predominant feeling under the influence of which members have once more come together. If we were to draw hasty conclusions from isolated facts, we might infer from the unusual number of persons who lined Westminster Hall to witness the ingress of members, that the opening of Parliament excited more public interest than we remember to have been the case of late years. But we cannot conscientiously deduce this flattering conclusion from the premiss. The crowd was drawn together, we suspect, much more by the report that Big Ben was to make his voice heard, than by any special regard to the solemnities of the occasion. We content ourselves, however, with recording the fact that we have seldom seen a larger representation of the public inside the Hall and along the corridors, and leave our readers to interpret it as they think fit.

Well, here we are once more. Now that we are again within the walls of the House, it seems difficult, if not impossible, to realise the fact that we have been so many months absent. The building itself has undergone no perceptible change. There are the old familiar faces in the old places. Honourable members look fresher and more buoyant than at the close of last session—and here and there one sees a member that he does not recollect to have seen before—else all is just as if we had adjourned only from last week. At half-past one, the Speaker is announced and enters, not now in his State robes, but in his ordinary gown and wig. The Chaplain follows him at respectful distance. The House, as usual, rises to receive their President, and he takes his place at the right corner of the table. The only novelty is the deep-toned voice of Big Ben from the Palace-yard hard by. Is it surprising that, being, as he is, under Government management, he should do what he was bidden to do *out of season*? At any rate, he tolled all through prayers, so as well nigh to drown the voice of the chaplain; and waggish or superstitious members suggested that he was ringing the knell of the Administration. There were pleasant greetings not a few. But the muster of members was but scanty, and among those present, few of the notable but Mr. Gladstone. At two o'clock the Usher of the Black Rod made his appearance, and summoned the House to hear the Royal Speech read by commission. This ceremony over, the House separated until a quarter to four.

We are not in our place till half-past four. The swearing in of new members has taken place, and the giving of notices is going forward. We look round. The House is fairly filled. We miss nobody of note but Sir James Graham and Mr. Bright. Right glad are we to see Mr. Cobden in his seat once more. Lord Palmerston strikes us as looking haggard and unwell—have the frequent Cabinet meetings unsettled him? But see! Behind him are two members, both young, dressed in the scarlet and gold-laced uniforms of deputy-lieutenants of counties. These are the selected mover and seconder of the Address, Sir John Ramsden and Sir Andrew Agnew. A nervous moment for them, we have no doubt. And now the Speaker rises, and informing the House that he has been to the House of Peers to hear the Queen's Speech, "of which, for greater accuracy, he has obtained a copy," proceeds to read that document, of which it was justly remarked by Mr. Milner Gibson that no such Royal Speech had appeared since the days of the Georges, and that it might well have been written by Castle-reagh.

Sir John Ramsden rises immediately after the Speaker has resumed his seat. He is quite a young man, and the light colour of his hair adds to the juvenility of his appearance. We well remember his maiden speech on the admission of Dissenters to the University of Oxford, and were prepared therefore for an effective address. It was, probably, for the most part, delivered *memoriter*, and it was both good in itself and well delivered. Of course, we do not endorse its sentiments. But he touched lightly and gracefully the principal topics of the Queen's Speech, in well-formed sentences, which he gave utterance to without the smallest hesitancy, and without a single trip. That he should praise Lord Palmerston was to be expected, regard being had to the nature of his task. But he did it with discretion and in good taste. Perhaps he was more sanguine of the good things in store for the country than

actual facts will warrant; and he certainly trod over awkward places with a nimble and delicate step. He was most favourably listened to by the House, and having occupied half an hour, sat down amidst hearty cheers from both sides. Sir Andrew Agnew was not quite so long—nor was he, by any means, so successful. The House fell into conversation before he had been up five minutes, and throughout the remaining twenty, during which he amplified the topics left for him by his colleague, he was unable to regain attention.

Is the old rivalry between the two ex-chancellors still in full force? There they sit each in his place—each uncovered—each watching the moment for Sir Andrew Agnew to sit down, in order to catch, if possible, the Speaker's eye. Disraeli is successful—Mr. Gladstone resumes his seat and his hat. The leader of the Opposition opens his sessional work with renovated power. He draws a picture of Europe as it stood on the 30th March last—and describes its tendencies to settle down and be quiet. He shows how, one after another, from that time to this, new elements of discord have sprung up just as old enmities are healed. Ever there is some mysterious agency at work to divert attention from domestic concerns to international disputes. First America, then Russia, then Naples, afterwards Switzerland, and now Persia and China, present difficulties which must be attended to, which constitute a sufficient pretext for doing nothing at home, and a convenient excuse for a wasteful expenditure. Lord Palmerston, he said, creates the entanglements out of which he afterwards extricates us. His description of the noble lord's foreign policy was caustic—and some of his points were most happily put. He produced no little sensation when he informed the House that a secret treaty between France and Austria existed, approved, if not instigated by, our own Government, in which France guaranteed to Austria the integrity of her Italian possessions. Upon the subject of keeping on foot a large standing army, he was almost radical—and his denunciation of the Income-tax was as strong as if he had prepared his speech for a vestry meeting. On this latter subject he announced his intention of taking the sense of the House within a fortnight, and gave a rough draft of the resolutions he meant to propose. We never heard him speak more reasonably, more seriously, or more worthy of his position in a deliberative assembly.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer followed in a brief speech, deprecating, of course, the coming to any decision upon ways and means before the estimates had been agreed upon. Great confusion prevailed during the few minutes that he was on his legs.

After him, we had Mr. Gladstone. He touched upon our foreign policy, which, plainly enough, is little to his mind. But his main points were, the necessity as well as duty of reducing our military expenditure to the average which predominated before the war with Russia, and the obligation under which the House lay to the country, to apply the Income-tax whilst it lasts to the purposes for which it was originally imposed—namely, the complete re-adjustment of our fiscal policy; and to let it expire in 1860. A very weighty speech, which will be read with profound interest, and, we hope, profitably pondered by the public.

Lord Palmerston then attempted to bring the discussion to a close. He rallied Mr. Disraeli on his power of imagination, and told him that his outline of the foreign policy of the Government was a pure *romance*. Mr. Disraeli had spent, he said, a portion of the recess at Paris, and proved a godsend to those ingenious men who exercised their inventive powers in mystifying *gobemouches*. As to the secret treaty the honourable gentleman had discovered, the noble lord said he knew nothing of it—there was no such treaty in existence. He announced that Feruk Khan had opened negotiations with Lord Cowley, which would probably put a speedy close to the Persian war—a war which he treated as a very unimportant affair. But although the noble lord was good-humoured and witty, and although the information he gave on two or three topics of foreign policy was more satisfactory than had been looked for, he can hardly be said to have left upon the House an impression likely to conduce to the stability of his Ministry, which, it seems to us, will be ousted before Easter, unless large concessions are made.

Mr. Baillie and Lord John Russell rose together. The Speaker called on the first—the House called for the last—but Mr. Baillie persisted in his right—and was not listened to.

Lord John Russell, who has got back again to the fourth bench, dwelt at some length on our policy in regard to Italy, and characterised it as aggravating misgovernment in that country. He, too, as well as Mr. Disraeli, and Mr. Gladstone, condemned the project of keeping afloat a large military power, and argued that our defensive

establishments need not be more onerous than they were before the late war, and that by easing the burdens of the people we were far more likely to nourish our national strength, than by the constant maintenance of large armies. The tone of his speech was refreshingly liberal.

Mr. Milner Gibson and Mr. Hadfield added a few words; but *la Hora* by that time—a quarter past twelve—did not contain forty members: there was, of course, no division on the Address.

The discussion, unless we greatly mistake, bodes little good to the Ministry. It appears likely enough that Big Ben tolled their knell. We shall see.

THE CANTON OUTRAGE.

"THESE interests," says Sir John Bowring, in reference to the provisions of the treaty with China, in his reply to an appeal from the inhabitants of Canton, "are indeed most important, but they are not so dear to the British nation as its honour, nor is a British Minister at liberty to give them precedence where the national honour is involved." We have no objection to try him and his colleagues by this test. With a sincere desire to do them justice, we have read the correspondence received by the last mail from China. After weighing all the evidence as yet produced, it is with great regret we feel obliged to record our conviction that, in the language of a petition to Parliament, "the hostile acts committed by Admiral Seymour, with the concurrence of Sir John Bowring and Mr. Consul Parkes, cannot be justified on the plea of necessity, and are worthy of the gravest and heaviest censure." Passing by the evident purpose of our authorities at Canton to provoke hostilities with the Chinese Commissioner, we recur to the case of the Arrow with all the light that has been now thrown upon it. It is of the last importance for the "honour of the British nation," upon which Sir J. Bowring's despatch sets so high a value, that we should clearly ascertain whether that notorious dispute really afforded any just ground for the bombardment of a commercial city with a million and a half of inhabitants. We are at war with China because of an alleged insult offered to the British flag. *Was the British flag insulted?* On the 11th October, Sir John Bowring writes to Mr. Consul Parkes, that "it appears on examination that the Arrow had no right to hoist the British flag; the licence to do so expired on the 27th September, from which period she has not been entitled to protection." On the 14th November, this same representative of British "honour" at Canton begins despatch to Yeh by telling him—"Whatever representations may have been made to your Excellency, there is no doubt that the lorchha Arrow lawfully bore the British flag, under a register granted by me." Which of these statements is correct? Supposing that subsequent inquiry had satisfied Sir John that the information given to Mr. Parkes was at variance with the fact, it was with the full belief in his own mind that the Arrow had no right to hoist the British flag that he cruelly and deliberately gives this hive of human beings to the rockets and shells of Sir Michael Seymour. But there is no reason to suppose such was the case. Again and again Commissioner Yeh reiterates, without contradiction, the plain facts of the case respecting the lorchha, and Sir John Bowring himself instructs Consul Parkes "to send back the register [of the Arrow] to be delivered up to the Colonial-office,"—a proof that it had already expired and become forfeited, according to the provisions of the Hong Kong ordinance, which states, "that any infringement of the provisions of this ordinance shall render the colonial register ipso facto void." Our Plenipotentiary's original statement, "that the Arrow had no right to hoist the British flag," proves to be entirely correct. It is moreover confirmed by the Chinese Commissioner, who says:—

It was shown on trial of the prisoner that the lorchha was built by Soo Aching, a Chinese; a register was purchased for her of the merchant Block for 1,000 dols., and she assumed the British flag without being entitled to it. She was lying, at the time of the seizure, off the Dutch Folly, and, as has been clearly proved, with no ensign flying; it being, as it appears, an established law with British vessels to haul down their ensign when they drop anchor, and not to hoist it again until they get under weigh.

Now for the alleged "obstinacy and dis courtesy" which, according to Sir John Bowring, rendered necessary the operations of the British navy. Speaking of the conduct of the Governor-General, he says: "His executive having insulted the British flag, and seized persons subject to British control and protection, he has withheld the reparation required of him. To the present hour he has neither expressed regret for what was done nor has he promised that the like shall not be done again." These charges are satisfactorily disposed of by Yeh in a despatch dated Nov. 12, in which he says:—

Again—the twelve men seized were all taken back by Heu, assistant magistrate of Nanhac, on the 22nd ult.; but Consul Parkes declined to receive either of them, or a despatch sent with them from me. The letter under acknowledgment says that had the authorities

been accessible to the consul, the affair might have been disposed of in a single interview.

The assistant magistrate, Heu, was sent twice with the men to be surrendered; it is through him that (foreign) correspondence with me is always transmitted. Now, the assistant magistrate is a commissioned officer of the Chinese empire. Heretofore, any foreign business that has had to be transacted by deputy, has been transacted by officers similarly deputed, and the present was a case of all others requiring common conference, but Consul Parkes had made up his mind not to consent to what was proposed.

On a subsequent occasion, I sent Tseang, Prefect of Luy-chow-foo, to the foreign factories, to consider what steps should be taken, but the consul now insisted on something more than the rendition of the men captured on board the lorchha. There being in all this no inaccessibility on the part of Chinese officials, what was there to make an immediate adjustment impracticable?

It thus appears, supposing that the crew of the Arrow were unlawfully seized, that the Governor-General opens communications with the British Consul in the customary manner, and offers to deliver up the men to our authorities. Consul Parkes declines to receive both the men and the explanatory despatch, abandons the original ground of dispute, and makes a fresh demand.

This demand "that there shall be henceforth unrestricted freedom of intercourse between the native authorities within and the foreign representatives without the city," Yeh rightly describes as "impracticable." He shows that the relations between the Chinese officials and British authorities had for many years been amicably and satisfactorily carried on without the admission of the latter into the city of Canton, and it was not in his power to alter the established custom, without reference to the Imperial Government. Sir John Bowring expressly says that the right of British subjects to be admitted into Canton "is not at the present moment under discussion," and that the above "simple and reasonable request" (we quote his own words), ought not to be "mixed up with the past discussions regarding the treaty rights." It may be very reasonable and proper that the British authorities should have free access to the Chinese officials in Canton, and it is a fair subject for negotiation and reference to the Emperor at Pekin. But, instead of having recourse to this just and equitable means of removing a grievance, our Plenipotentiary turns the "request" into a demand, which not being instantly complied with, Canton is bombarded, and wide-spread disaster and slaughter inflicted upon an unoffending population. Well may Yeh say, "Imagine it—that this simple fact being, that a seizure was made by the Chinese Government of Chinese offenders, whom it was a duty to seize, it is pretended that the British ensign was hauled down; and this is followed up by a movement of troops and a cannonade, to the infliction of terrible suffering on the people. I must beg your Excellency to pass an opinion on such a state of things."

Her Majesty's Speech at the opening of Parliament declares "that acts of violence, insults to the British flag, and infraction of treaty rights, committed by the local Chinese authorities at Canton, and a pertinacious refusal of redress, have rendered it necessary for Her Majesty's officers in China to have recourse to measures of force to obtain satisfaction." What are the "acts of violence?" The Governor-General of Canton seizes certain Chinese subjects on board a Chinese vessel, well known for its piratical practices, which, though it once had a British register, is no longer, according to Sir J. Bowring's own admission, entitled to British protection. The British flag, therefore, has not been "insulted." The "infraction of treaty rights" consists in the refusal to admit British subjects within the walls of Canton—though for eight years our authorities had allowed that provision to be held in abeyance, and have from time to time acquiesced in the representation of the Chinese authorities, that, in consequence of the turbulence and ill-feeling of the population of Canton, it would be dangerous to admit foreigners inside the city. "In 1854," writes Yeh, "on your Excellency's arrival here as Minister, you addressed me on the subject. I replied, in plain terms, as the real truth was, that the whole city population was opposed to it, and that there was not on my part any fiction of statement or design of obstruction."

With every disposition to make allowance for British officials in dealing with an Oriental people, and every wish to find them acting in a way consistent with the honour of the English nation, the correspondence hitherto published compels the conclusion that our authorities at Canton have entered upon a war with China without any tangible provocation. They have made demands not supported by treaty or by justice, have exhibited a spirit of reckless equivocation and deception, have shown themselves equally rash and imbecile, and have acted the part of men who were determined to pick a quarrel with a weak and unoffending population. We contemplate with shame and indignation this dishonourable and cruel war, and

trust that the British people will join the inhabitants of Newcastle in imploring Her Majesty to "recall immediately Admiral Seymour, Sir John Bowring, and Mr. Consul Parkes, and to order a searching inquiry into their conduct, to the end that justice may be done, and the British nation may be freed from the charge of participation in such acts."

CURIOSITIES OF "JUSTICE."

WITHIN the last few days justice has been baulked, either by the law, or by its administrators, in two or three cases so strongly-marked, that we need not apologise for singling them out from the crowd of instances in which the same thing happens in lesser sort.

One of the cases occurred in the Court of Exchequer, where an action *per quod servitum amisi* brought by the father-in-law of a poor betrayed girl, who had barely escaped with life from the shock of her shameful situation, was defeated upon the point of wages. The law could not recognise the victim as a servant, because (standing in a certain relation to her master) she had received only pocket-money and casual remuneration. In this instance, a rule for a new trial has been granted by the Judges *in banco*, and we doubt whether the decision of Mr. Baron Bramwell will be confirmed. At all events, the state of the law, as regards one of the gravest of social crimes, is an old, melancholy common-place for the reformer, and all the journalist needs to do is to keep fresh the memory of its wrongness by an occasional allusion.

Before Mr. Corrie, at Clerkenwell, a shoemaker, aged twenty-six, has been convicted of terrible cruelty to his baby daughter Mary, aged sixteen months. The details, which are said to have brought cries of horror from the court, we will not dwell upon. Suffice it that this "father" avowed, very nonchalantly, that certain marks on the little creature's back,—marks which a fortnight's careful tending had not erased,—were done by his hand, but "it was only with a thin cane;" and that other marks were "not bruises, only scalds." What was this father's design towards his wailing little daughter? Clearly, to kill it by slow torture, because it cost him half-a-crown, or less, per week. With that "fearful and wonderful" tenacity of life which belongs to a child—and old wives do say, more to a female child than to a male—the tender thing declines to die, and is, at last, rescued. Its torturer is sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour. The law, through the law-administrator, cannot, it seems, deal efficiently with this man. There is no provision for such a case—he is, for the present, a moral madman; three months in prison will do him no good; (will it deter others?) perhaps three years would not, as prisons go; a long course of discipline would be needed to bring back so warped a nature to its human straightness. Nay, it is possible that no length or kind of treatment could make such a creature as "George Hicknott" fit for social life *under average conditions*. Where, then, is the provision which an "enlightened" society has made for the anomalous beings whom she has suffered to grow up in her midst while she has been playing at bomb-shells or what-not?

There is a touch of the ludicrous about our next story. The Unprotected Cab is a new claimant for public sympathy. A gentleman,—well, say a "person,"—gets into a cab in a storm of sleet, and declines to allow the windows to be closed, at the suggestion of the driver, who is rightly concerned for his master's property in the cushions, &c. Cabby, finding passenger obstinate, pulls up. Passenger says, "Drive me to Bow-street." The question propounded to Mr. Jardine, there would seem to have been practically this—Has a "person" a right to use a public carriage for the purpose of enjoying the elemental war in a sitting posture with his legs a little sheltered? May he, for sixpence a mile, keep his head cool and his feet warm in this fashion, to the detriment of the owner's private property in his vehicle? After hearing the case twice over, Mr. Jardine thinks he may. A cab is a public carriage which the temporary owner may use pretty much at his pleasure. We forbear to put extreme cases which might bring that dictum to a *reductio ad absurdum*; for, would any one have ever dreamt of this case? Would the framer of any Hackney Carriage Act in the world? Such things are "too high" for any legislatorial sagacity—

"What! hang a man for going mad?
Then, farewell British freedom!"

It would be easy to spin phrases of indignation about the two more serious of these stories; but we forbear. When we find the "individuality of the individual" baulking us in ways so shocking at every turn, let us learn to trust less to machineries and more to what is above and should be within them: finding such things staring us in the face, in spite of "progress," and the thousand-eyed and thousand-tongued press, let us gather a lesson of wise patience; patience not for

acquiescence in wrong, but for work against it, each in his appointed way.

CHIT-CHAT OF THE WEEK.

The form of government in France at the present epoch resembles, as our readers are aware, that of ancient Rome under the later Caesars, which has been wittily defined as a despotism tempered by epigrams. The most powerful of the epigrammatists who in some sort hold Louis Napoleon in check, so far as poems handed about in MS. in these days of printing can do is Beranger. He is the centre of gravity of the constitutional opposition, if such an atom can be said to afford room for a centre. And now we hear that Beranger has been tempted to sell himself. Eugenie has fancied she should like him for a poodle, and has been tampering with his publisher, M. Perrotin. The report had even got wind that the base attempt had succeeded. That all who knew anything of the tough old poet of liberty, felt to be utterly impossible. Accordingly an authoritative denial from M. Perrotin himself appears, admitting, however, most distinctly, that approaches were made by the Empress through himself towards the poet, but that the proffered pension was, respectfully, indeed, but most firmly, declined. The *Spectator* deems the transaction "creditable to every one of the persons engaged;" nay, goes so far as to say that "nothing can be more so." In his philosophic eyes, nothing beyond a purely Platonic and literary "love" of Beranger prompted the fair partner of the throne which rests on the December massacres. *Credat Judæus—Achilles Fould!*

The Chevalier Bunsen, released from the toils of diplomacy, and not very hopeful of returning to Carlton-terrace, at least for the present, is writing away at a most furious rate in his villa of Charlottenburg, near Heidelberg, on the banks of the Neckar. Besides his "Signs of the Times," and two additional volumes of his "Egypt's Place in Universal History," lately published, he has announced a new version of the Bible, for the use of the German people, to pave the way for which he is engaged in writing a new philosophical and philological introduction to the Scriptures, entitled "God in History." The first volume of this latter work has already appeared, and, as our readers may have learnt from a paragraph which has just been going the round of the papers, is already in the hands of Miss Winkworth for the purpose of translation into English. The original is said to be making a prodigious sensation on the Continent. Having looked into the book, we can easily understand this, and can confidently anticipate a good deal of excitement from its publication on this side the Channel. It is full of the most startling Rationalism, and must be regarded as a daring manifesto apparently designed to rally the remnants of the routed army of the destructive critics in a last assault upon the records of Revelation. The sweeping reaction in favour of supernaturalism which of late has been carrying all before it in Germany—and of which, by the bye, our own theological alarmists and praters about *Germanism* are hopelessly ignorant—has undoubtedly proceeded at too reckless a rate Romeward. But the remedy proposed by the dashing Chevalier is worse than the disease, bad as we must admit that to be. His honesty of endeavour to bring about a reconciliation between reason and faith is praiseworthy enough, and his anxiety to keep some terms with revealed religion is unmistakable. But faith is not to be absorbed into reason after the fashion insisted on in his book, nor the Bible brought down to the level of a merely human composition. Infidelity masked as Christianity is no solution of the problem with which he has undertaken to grapple.

The most ancient translator of the Scriptures into a Teutonic tongue—the Gothic—was the Bishop Ulfilas who flourished about the middle of the fourth century. His work is preserved in MS. in the *Codex Argenteus*, so called from the beautiful silver characters in which it is written. This precious relic is preserved at Upsala, in Sweden, having been presented to the library of that University in 1669. At that time it comprised 187 leaves, but in 1834 it was suddenly discovered that ten of them had been cut out, and it was strongly suspected that two English travellers had been guilty of the shameful theft. At length, however, our national character has been purged of this stain. The ten missing leaves, as we learn from the *Athenaeum*, have happily come to light. Professor Uppström, who a year ago published an admirable edition in fac-simile of this world-famous MS., recently received a communication from an old collector, a Swedish gentleman now on his death-bed, enclosing the ten lost leaves.

Having mentioned the *Athenaeum*, we are strongly tempted to copy from its current number, one of its brief notices which strikes us as rather a new and good thing in that way:

Oliver Cromwell: a Story of the Civil War. By Charles Edward Stewart (?) Two vols. (Smith, Elder,

and Co.) We do not mean to imply that Mr. Charles Edward Stuart is a "Pretender," but we do say that, in novel writing, he is no lawful and rightful king. This is a most dreary creation as the press ever flattened out or vomited forth. Here, for the thousandth time, we have the stock characters, and situations of all such conceptions and misconceptions. As usual there is Zerubbabel, always in trouble,—a Royalist colonel, the villain infernal,—Margery fair, with a curl in her hair,—Manasses, the father, a screw (a bore rather),—then Hubert, the lover, a fool we discover,—King Charles, quite the martyr, who tore up the charter,—and Milton who proses till everyone dozes,—then Elijah who prates and Job who debates while Statham dilates,—and Joshua and Noah, and Sleek and a score who each talk for four:—Mr. Stewart no more, or we sleep and we snore.

Comments on the late assembly of the Congregational Union still continue. The *Record* says:—

The first impression made on an Episcopalian is on produced by the exhibition of the weakness of the Congregational system. The Congregational Union seemed to be a substitute both for an episcopacy and a presbytery, and its power to decide on any question in dispute—such as the "Rivulet" Controversy, seemed to be taken for granted. The Rev. Henry Allon, himself one of the famous fifteen, seemed to admit that their final court of appeal was not a Church-court or a Church-union—not to a bishop, a presbytery, or a synod—but to public opinion. If the *Times* newspaper rightly reflected as in a mirror, the opinions of the age, that would be, in such a crisis, the ultimate tribunal of Congregationalism; albeit Scripture has asked, "Dare any of you having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust and not before the saints?" But, passing over the principle seemingly implied in the apostolic interrogation, if we look at the sentiments expressed at the meeting in question, we are bound on the whole, to express satisfaction.

The *Record*, with its notorious penchant for the unveracious, regales its readers with a *rechauffée* of the *Advertiser* report of the meetings, which had already been duly "cooked" in the interests of the "Negative Morality." The *Wesleyan Times*, so far from agreeing with the *Record*, thinks that Congregationalism has come forth most honourably from the ordeal. In a later article (of last Monday), which is well worth reading, it says it should not be much surprised if Dr. Campbell and a few other Scotch Independents were to coalesce with the Free Church. The *Watchman*, which seems to think favourably of the result of the meetings, is witty on the characteristic avowal made by Dr. Campbell in the course of his speech, that "he had never shed a tear in his life." The strange confession had been elicited by Mr. Legge, of Reading, saying he had seen the Union's Editor "standing on the platform like a stag at bay, with the tears running down his face." On this edifying episode, the *Watchman* remarks as follows:—

Mr. Legge, in his friendly excitement, must somehow have confused his mental picture of the noble animal at bay, with his recollection of the "poor sequestered stag" lamented by "the melancholy Jaques," when he saw "the big round tears course one another down its innocent nose." On the other hand, we think that Dr. Campbell should not have boasted of his peculiar and stony idiosyncrasy. The "Angelic Doctor," and the "Invincible Doctor," were titles of renown in other days; that of the "Tearless Doctor" were a less ornamental addition to a modern divine. It no doubt may be an aridness not of the heart but simply of the lachrymal gland; still for a minister, it is not enviable to be known as "the Stoic of the Church, the Saint without a tear."

The *English Churchman* finishes the assembly off in a patronising paragraph *suo more* as follows:—

The Nonconformists' "Congregational Union" had a very long and stormy meeting last week, at which an attempt was made to close the "Rivulet Controversy" excited by the *Morning Advertiser* and the *British Banner*; but all hopes of peace appear to be at end, for the attempt led only to fresh excitement. So far as our slight acquaintance with the matter enables us to judge, Mr. Binney, and his fellow-labourers in defence of the "Rivulet," appear to have behaved all through the Controversy far more like gentlemen and Christians than the *Advertiser* and *Banner* party. A sensible and manly pamphlet, on the subject, has just been published by Mr. Freeman, of Fleet-street, entitled "Positive Religion versus Negative Morality," which is worth a dozen of the violent tirades of which so many real or pretended "editions" have been put forth on the other side. One important question naturally occurs, on witnessing this prolonged Controversy, in which the fundamentals of the faith are said to be involved—"Have Dissenters no tribunals for calmly deciding such matters?"

Dr. Livingston has written to the *Times* repudiating any connexion with the sixpenny account of his discoveries, "with a map corrected by himself" which has been extensively advertised by the Messrs. Routledge. From a subsequent letter addressed to the same journal by Messrs. Reed and Pardon, it turns out that the pamphlet is a republication of the *Banner* articles on the subject, the copyright of which had been sold by them to the Messrs. Routledge, unknown to Dr. Livingston.

Talking of republications, will no enterprising publisher let us have a *fasciculus* of leaders from the Russian newspapers, which have actually just begun to furnish their readers with pabulum of the sort? This would be indeed a novelty. Even the *St. Petersburg Journal* has commenced giving leading articles. According to the *Star*, its first essay in this direction looks very much like an emanation from the Peace Society!

Our readers will have noticed the announcements of

the new and cheaper edition of Carlyle's works, to commence with the "French Revolution" (at 12s.) and "Cromwell" (at 18s.).

Mr. Barnard, of 339, Oxford-street, has just published a very handsome lithograph portrait from life of that popular minister, the Rev. W. Landels, of Regent's-park Chapel. It is a striking likeness, and we can heartily commend it to the notice of the numerous admirers of that gentleman.

Spirit of the Press.

An elaborate, and what we may take to be an authoritative, exposition of Conservative policy, is given in the *Quarterly Review* just published. According to the Tory organ, as interpreted by the *Spectator*, Palmerston is to be systematically assailed, as a Minister morally worthless, without principles or purpose; as a man who has "never staked his fortune upon any cause, except such as have enjoyed the manifest favour of the gods;" who never, like Peel in 1833, or Derby in 1846, or John Russell in 1822, or Charles Villiers in 1838, cast his lot with a prostrate party; but who was always in at the death. Without interest in domestic policy, he has a foreign policy specious but dangerous: "the rule of his life has been to bluster and to intimidate;" he has bullied little states, while, as he said at Manchester, he always managed to discover that great states are willing to render justice. If Lord John Russell produce a Reform Bill it will be set aside by Lord Palmerston's Reform Bill, which will be just big enough to get between it and the popular breeze. Meanwhile, the Conservatives lay down a course of rescue from the interminable foreign brawls of Lord Palmerston's Government, with accomplishment of measures which he only promised, or does not promise. Lord Derby has proposed nonintervention, an equal friendship with all foreign states, as the rule of our foreign policy. The *Quarterly* adds retrenchment of the large establishments developed by the Palmerston Ministry; calling to mind that "the Government of the Duke of Wellington was the first really retrenching Government;" readjustment of finance, Income-tax included, follows as a matter of course; and the cautious Conservative organ significantly "forbears" to speak on "the great subjects of religion, education, social improvement, and the distribution of patronage,"—intimating that on these subjects there are measures which await the settlement of more urgent questions.

In accordance with the Conservative programme, Lord John Russell is pitted by the *Press* against Lord Palmerston, which advises Conservatives to be prepared to encounter some new attempt of the hereditary Whig leader to invest himself with influence.

The Premier is the oldest Prime Minister that Parliament ever saw, and he cannot inaugurate a new policy. Lord Clarendon is feeble in health, and is a professional statesman, without great Whig connexions. Lord Granville is certainly not fitted for a leader. Even the Stafford House Whigs would not choose the Duke of Argyll, who is beginning to subside. In "rising men," the Liberals are not fortunate just at present. It is in these circumstances that a man with Lord John Russell's name, talents, experience, and audacity might be again endured as a conditional chief. He may find himself suddenly invested with a quasi authority, and still play a noisy part in political histrionics with the claqueurs of faction applauding his tributes to Mr. Hampden, his thrilling allusions to Lord Somers, his little anecdotes of Mr. Horner, his condescending compliments to the Barons of Runnymede, and his highly courteous deference towards his own past career!

The Liverpool address to Sir John M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch has called forth some able articles from our independent journals. The *Examiner* says:—

The wrong of the Crimean Commissioners is not a matter to be stowed away yet among the by-gones; it is not yet quite ripe for oblivion. Justice has a hold of the subject, and until her claims are satisfied, will not suffer it to drop into Lethe. Parliament alone can undo the evil that has been done, as far as to undo is possible. The House of Commons must set up what Ministers have knocked down. The country must be careful to honour what Ministers took such pains to discredit. It must be signally proved that talent and integrity are objects of at least national respect. Truth, turned out of Downing-street, hustled out of Whitehall, buffeted at Chelsea, persecuted from department to department, and from office to office, must only be received by a truth-loving people with redoubled ardour; and history must be enabled to say that merit, brow-beaten by a minister, may count all the more securely upon the smiles of the public.

In a great measure, indeed, the British public takes upon itself the agreeable duty of compensating those whose rewards the Minister has cast to the dogs. Who would not prefer the well-earned applause of the country, though neither sounding in wealth or titles, to preferences only making incapacity more conspicuous, or dignities disgraceful to those who bestowed them? This is not a mere personal matter says the *Times*. The interests of the nation demand that men employed on a public service shall not be exposed to injury from the ill-will of any class or profession. If Sir J. M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch be not righted there is an end of all good to be expected from any future inquiry in which men dependent on the Government may be engaged.

Mr. Roebuck is charged by the *Times*, *Spectator*, and *Examiner*, with requiring an impossible public virtue. The latter remarks, if another J. A. Roebuck appeared on the political stage, his double in every respect, Mr. Roebuck would not be satisfied with him, and would find something amiss either in his talents or his qualities. "There is no brotherhood in politics for Mr. Roebuck. He is in that field a very Cain. We acquit him of ill-feeling; the error is one of judgment." Nevertheless, our contemporary is not willing to part with Mr. Roebuck:—

We value and honour Mr. Roebuck highly for his brave specialty. Fear never controls his voice, nor any paltry deferences. He is the bravest of public champions, but far from an unerring public censor. The passion which serves him in opening a special impeachment leads him astray when he assumes judicial attributes. It is desirable that there should always be such a man in the House of Commons, and never has there been a better for the special service than Mr. Roebuck, none more upright, more able, more courageous, none also, as the hackneyed essay has it, more "original and unaccommodating."

"The perjurious attack on the Church of Ireland" once more raises the ire of our Orange contemporary, the *Sentinel*, which transmits to a large number of its subscribers the address of the Dublin Protestant Association, "defining the policy which that valuable body would wish to see adopted in rendering opposition in the House of Commons to the disgraceful and perjurious motion which Mr. Miall threatens to renew against the Irish Church in the coming session."

It is surely full time to re-open the merits of the Emancipation Act and of the Test and Corporation Act (or the repeal of it), when the objects favoured by one of these acts prove perjurers, and of the other suborners of perjury, both working together (whether willingly or not is little matter) for the overthrow of British liberty and the subversion of the British empire.

In an article on the education question the *Daily News* remarks:—

Whilst the public are occupying their time and spending their money in these Reformatories and Ragged Schools, there is a class of children with even greater claims than the inmates of these institutions, who are in danger of being still neglected. Roughly there are no fewer than 50,000 children in workhouses, and some 250,000 children receiving relief out of the workhouse, whom the State is obliged to look after, and who deserve just as much sympathy as any boy in any Ragged School. As we have pointed out again and again, the condition of these pauper children, the condition of the schools in which they are taught, and the condition of the masters who teach them, are simply disgraceful. Why are these to be neglected? If any new measures for pauper education are to be adopted by the Government these are the children which claim the first care.

The *Times* concludes an article on the case of *Davidson v. Duncan*, reported elsewhere, with the following appeal to the bench:—

If a man be an honourable man he would wish that if an imputation be made against him it should not be whispered in a corner, or passed along from mouth to ear, but made publicly and in print, where he could recognise it and destroy it. Surely the judges, for the sake of the dignity of their office and of the law they administer, will seek to obtain an alteration in our defamation law as now administered? It cannot be their pleasure to sit as judges without power to punish the most odious crimes which man can commit against his fellow. Some change there must be. The changes we ask for are these:—

Abolish the distinction between words publicly and advisedly spoken and the same words when written.

Permit a defendant to plead that the words complained of were really spoken by the person named in the report; that the requisite evidence to prove this fact had been placed at the disposal of the plaintiff, and that the publication was without malice.

With a law thus amended the Court of Queen's Bench may speak gravely of the protection accorded by the law to private character. They have no right to do so as long as they are obliged to admit that they can give no remedy against the slanderer of a neighbour's morals or the calumniator of a woman's chastity.

Apropos of the Tiverton Burial case, which has also been before a law Court, the *Daily News* remarks, on the part taken by the Bishop of Exeter, what a sorry spectacle it is to see a venerable man, grey-haired and with one foot in the grave, a professed servant of Him the whole spirit of whose teaching was brotherhood and love, seeking to perpetuate beyond the limits of mortality those miserable distinctions and that sectarian exclusiveness which have too long perverted the religion of peace into a source of bitterness and an occasion of strife.

Mr. Langworthy was returned on Monday as the member for Salford. There was no opposition, and the election was unanimous.

An influential meeting was held at Leeds, on Wednesday, under the presidency of the Mayor (Mr. John Botterill), to establish a reformatory at Adel, for the borough of Leeds; to appoint an executive committee; to pass a code of laws, and to transact such other business as might be deemed necessary. Resolutions to carry out these objects were adopted, it being stated that sufficient money had been subscribed to erect the necessary buildings according to a model (which was exhibited), prepared by Mr. Hewitson. It is proposed that the inmates shall consist only of juveniles who have been convicted; but that the institution shall not be confined entirely to boys convicted by the Leeds magistrates, as it is not thought desirable that boys who have been companions prior to conviction should meet each other in confinement.

A YANKEE PICTURE OF ENGLISH HIGH LIFE.

The following pleasant peep at English domestic life is extracted from a letter written by an officer of the Merrimac frigate, when she lay at Southampton in October. We find it in the *Washington (N.C.) Journal*: "Much attention has been paid us ashore, too, especially by two families—one, that of an old East India General, the other that of Lord Hardwicke. General Frazier has passed most of his life in India, and now lives in ease and comfort on the Southampton water. At a dinner at his house we had an opportunity of seeing how the aristocracy here live. Lord Hardwicke and family and several other guests were there to meet us, and everything was in splendid style. One turbaned Indian, with several other servants, waited at table. The plate was superb, and the dinner the most *recheneche*. We sat down to table at half-past seven o'clock. These are always epaulette and sword occasions. Lord Hardwicke's family consists of his Countess, his eldest son (about eighteen or twenty, and Lord Royston by courtesy), three of the finest looking daughters you ever saw, and several younger sons. The daughters—Lady Elizabeth, Lady Mary, and Lady Agnita—are surpassingly beautiful; such development, such rosy cheeks, laughing eyes, and unaffected manners you rarely see combined. They take a great deal of out-door exercise, and came aboard the Merrimac in a heavy rain, with Irish thicker-soled shoes than you or I ever wore, and cloaks and dresses almost impervious to wet. They steer their father's yacht, walk the Lord knows how many miles, and don't care a cent about rain, besides doing a host of other things that would shock our ladies to death; and yet in the parlour they are the most elegant women in their satin shoes and diamonds I ever saw. The Countess, in her coronet of jewels, is an elegant lady, and looks like a fit mother for three such women. His lordship has given us three or four dinners. He lives here merely during the yachting season, and leaves here on Friday for his country seat at Cambridge, where he spends his winter, as do all English gentlemen of means, in hunting, &c., and when Parliament is in session, he lives in London in his town house. Here he has a host of servants, and they wear the gaudiest livery—white coats, with big silver buttons, white cravats, plush knee-breeches and vest, white silk stockings, and low shoes. Lord Hardwicke's brother is Dean of York, a High Church dignitary, has two pretty daughters, and is himself a jolly gentleman. After dinner the ladies play and sing for us, and the other night they got up a game of blind man's buff, in which the ladies said we had the advantage, inasmuch as their 'petticoats rustled, so that they were easily caught.' They call things by their names here. In the course of the game Lord Hardwicke himself was blindfolded, and, trying to catch some one, fell over his daughter's lap on the floor, when two or three of the girls caught him by the legs and dragged his lordship, roaring with laughter, as we all were, on his back into the middle of the floor. Yet they are perfectly respectful, but appear on a perfect equality with each other. In fact, the English are a great people. Two clubs here have offered us the use of their rooms."—*New York Times*.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The third dramatic performance at Windsor Castle took place on Wednesday; the plays selected, Mr. Planche's "Secret Service" and Mr. Dance's "Hush-money." On Monday there was a Privy Council at Windsor, at which the Royal Speech on the opening of Parliament was approved of by the Queen. The Queen appointed the sheriffs for the different counties in England and Wales for the present year. Sir Alexander Cockburn, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, was sworn of the Privy Council, and took his place at the Board. The Duke of Newcastle was sworn in as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Nottingham. At the Court Viscount Castlerosse had an audience of the Queen, and kissed hands on his appointment as Comptroller of the Household, and received from her Majesty his wand of office. General Barnard had an audience and delivered to the Queen the insignia of the Order of the Bath worn by his late uncle. The Queen gave audiences to Earl Granville, Lord Panmure, Sir Charles Wood, and Mr. M. T. Baines.

A rumour is spread, and generally believed, that the Oude question is settled by the grant of an hereditary pension. The Vakeels of his Majesty publicly declare that the King of Oude distinctly refused such terms as the above from the first, and that the rumour is entirely without foundation.

A deputation of gentlemen connected with Western Australia had an interview with Mr. Secretary Labouchere, on Saturday, at the Colonial-office, for the purpose of assuring the Government of the willingness of that colony to continue to receive convicts.

At the last meeting of the town-council of Glasgow it was unanimously resolved to confer the freedom of the city on Dr. Livingston, the distinguished African traveller, who is a native of the neighbouring parish of Blantyre. The doctor, in a letter to the town clerk, dated Sloane-street, London, 27th Jan., thus expresses himself:—

"I am very busily engaged in preparing a narrative of my travels for publication, and it is almost imperative on me to get this work finished before the end of April, as the healthy season in the delta of Kilimane (Quilimane) ends in July. This is one inducement to abide closely by my work. Another and more cogent reason is a desire to fulfil my promise to the Africans who came with me from the interior to the East Coast. Rather than break this I shall leave book-making to those who have nothing else to do; but I shall certainly pay another visit to my

mother before leaving the country, and will then be thankful to accept the honour kindly intended for me by the Lord Provost, magistrates, and council of Glasgow. I hope my visit will be about the end of April next. Believe me, &c., DAVID LIVINGSTON."

It would seem that Lord John Russell has at present entirely abandoned the intention of taking office. The noble ex-Premier has parted with his own mansion in Chesham-place to Lord Panmure, who will forthwith take possession.—*Court Journal*.

Mr. Savage, Second Wrangler at Cambridge this year, is the brother of the late Senior Wrangler, whose sudden death after the accession to his honours was the subject of much regret. The father of these young men is a Dissenting minister.—*Daily News*.

Mr. Collier, M.P., it is reported, will be the new Judge in the Court of Exchequer. Mr. Serjeant Byles's name is also mentioned. The Solicitor-General will wait a retirement in the Court of Queen's Bench. It is expected that Mr. Justice Coleridge will retire by Trinity Term.

The arrangements connected with the organisation of the War Office are now completed, and the offices of Clerk of the Ordnance, Deputy-Secretary-at-War, and Director-General of Army-Clothing have been abolished. Colonel Mundy has been appointed Governor of Jersey, and Sir Benjamin Hawes, the late Deputy-Secretary-at-War, becomes the permanent Under-Secretary of State; Mr. Godley, the late Director-General of Stores, is appointed Assistant Under-Secretary of State; Sir Henry Storks, K.C.B., is appointed Secretary for Military Correspondence; Captain Caffin, at present Naval Director-General of Artillery, is appointed Director of Stores and Clothing, and the salary attached to the former office is saved to the public. Mr. Ramsay, who has hitherto been Assistant Director-General of Clothing, will be Assistant-Director of Stores and Clothing, and will, in consequence of the amalgamation, undertake other duties connected with army stores generally in addition to those hitherto performed by him. Sir Thomas Troubridge is appointed Deputy-Adjutant-General, and will, under the directions of his Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief, perform the multifarious duties connected with the arrangement for the patterns of clothing, accoutrements, and necessaries supplied to the troops, and those purely military duties formerly undertaken by the Board of General Officers.

Admiral Peter Richards, a Lord of the Admiralty, has been appointed Commissioner of Greenwich Hospital.

The Bishop of London has appointed the Rev. J. Hampden Gurney, Rector of St. Mary's, Marylebone, to the Honorary Canonry in St. Paul's Cathedral, vacated by the death of the late Rev. Thomas Bowdler.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., last week visited the Heads of Houses and his constituents at the University of Oxford.

Mr. Baily, who was lately Colonial Secretary at the Mauritius, has been appointed to the Government of the Bahamas, in succession to Sir Alexander Bannerman.

The report that a company of Sappers and Miners is placed under orders for Norfolk Island, to assist in forming a convict settlement, is a mistake. No such orders have been given. Some small force is to be sent to the Falklands, to replace the existing guard, but only for ordinary duty, and not to form a convict establishment.—*Times*.

Sir George Grey has appointed the Rev. Sydney Turner, of Red Hill, to the office of Inspector of Prisons, with special charge of all Reformatory Schools certified or sanctioned under the recent Acts 17 and 18 Vic., 74 and 86.

A memorial, very numerously signed by the leading houses in the wine trade, was presented to the Treasury on Thursday, requesting that the privilege may be granted of bottling foreign wines in bond.

The *Gazette* of Friday contains the following announcement: "Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to signify her commands that a medal be granted to all persons, of every rank and class, who have been engaged in the several expeditions to the Arctic Regions, whether of discovery or search, between the years 1818 and 1855, both inclusive, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty hereby give notice of the same."

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland held his first levee for the season at Dublin Castle on Wednesday. It was very fully attended—between 1,300 and 1,400—although the streets were white with snow. The clergy of the Established Church mustered in great force, but of the Roman Catholic, not a single bishop or other dignitary attended to do honour to the representative of royalty.

Instead of a single expedition up the Niger, it is now proposed (says the *Daily News*) to despatch annually, for the next five years, a small steamer up that river at the public cost. The conduct in England of this series of Government adventures up this great but dismal African artery to Negroland, will be entrusted to the same enthusiastic gentleman who has so long inspired the Admiralty on the subject, while the command of the steamer will be confided to Mr. Baikie.

On Friday evening a conference took place at the Atheneum, Manchester, between the committee of the late Manchester and Salford Education Association and certain gentlemen from the National Public School Association. It appears that the latter act only in their individual capacity, the National Public School Association having not given up their movement as a body, but continuing to prosecute their scheme. The conference was a numerous one, being composed chiefly of clergymen, ministers of religion, and Sunday-school superintendents. Mr. Bazley presided, and gave a narrative of the steps that had been taken by gentlemen belonging to the two associations

and Sir John Pakington, who had formed the committee and prepared the heads of a bill which were to be submitted to the conference. The heads of the bill were read through and discussed seriatim, and were announced as subject to certain modifications. The principal subject of discussion was the proposition to open free schools and rate-aided schools, an opinion prevailing that if the former were sanctioned they must necessarily prevent the satisfactory working of the latter, if not wholly swamp them. Some of the gentlemen present thought too that there was a danger of infidelity being taught in the free schools if any restrictions were introduced into the bill. The proceedings occupied upwards of three hours, and the results appear to be satisfactory to the promoters of the measure.

Miscellaneous News.

It is stated that the discoveries of iron at Seend in Wiltshire still continue: several furnaces are to be erected forthwith; and large prices are offered for land in the vicinity.

On Friday evening, Mr. Edmund Fry delivered a lecture on the practicability of peace principles at the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, 165, Aldersgate-street; the Rev. Mr. Cooper in the chair.

The firm of Miles and Kington, of Bristol, is about to organise a fleet of auxiliary steamships between that port and Australia. The construction of the first ship has been undertaken by Messrs. J. M. Hyde and Co., of Bristol. She will be of 1,000 tons register.

In the case of the convict Mansell, certain amendments to the return of the Clerk of Assize to the writs of error issued, so as to enable the prisoner to appear and assign error, were moved for and ordered. The case cannot be argued before the 15th of April, so that the prisoner is necessarily respited beyond that date.

At a meeting of the trustees, held at Stratford-upon-Avon on Wednesday last, several tenders were received for the demolition of the houses and cottages that surround the birth-place of Shakspere. The work will be effected through the munificence of Mr. John Shakspere. The tender of Mr. William Holton was accepted, and a contract entered into for the removal of the premises within one month.

Mr. W. B. Norman, secretary of the Reform Club, has accidentally poisoned himself. It appears that some time since Mr. Norman broke one of his legs, and from that time has been in the habit of taking laudanum to allay the pain, which sometimes had been very severe. On Friday last he suffered acutely in consequence of the cold, and took more than his usual dose, a circumstance which unhappily resulted in his death.

On Saturday afternoon the deep sonorous sounds of "Big Ben's" voice were heard for several hours booming over London. What was the cause of this continued clangour from the belfry of Westminster remained for some time a mystery. It appears to have been simply a visit from Mr. E. B. Denison, Q.C., accompanied by a band of bell-ringers. The "Big Ben" was also set a-ringing yesterday in honour of the meeting of Parliament.

Mr. E. J. Lowe reports that a slight shock of earthquake was felt both at Beeston and at Highfield-house on Sunday week, at 3h. 20m. There was a noise like a distant heavy luggage train and a trembling of the ground, producing a peculiar sensation on the soles of the feet. The earthquake pendulum moved from west to east. The pendulum is thirty-three feet in length, and the movement was scarcely the eighth of an inch.

On Tuesday last Mary Masters, known as "Dame Masters," died in the Aylesbury Union, at the extraordinary age of 104 years. The deceased, a native of Ludgershall, and who has long been an inmate of the union, has left survivors to the fifth generation. She retained her faculties until a short time before her death, and talked freely of days gone by to her daughter and grand-daughter, who paid her a visit last Christmas—the former being in the seventy-first, and the latter in the fifty-first year of their ages.

The Crystal Palace Company have issued a circular to their shareholders, stating the result of the examination, conducted by Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., into the frauds of Robson, their late transfer clerk. It appears that they amount to 10,996*l.* in respect of preference shares, 16,890*l.* in respect of ordinary shares (taking the shares at their par value), and 915*l.* in respect of receipts for season tickets. It is also notified that arrangements have been made for converting the shares of the company into stock, which will be submitted to the next general meeting.

At a meeting of the Court of Common Council, on Thursday, a committee presented a report on the office of the Common Serjeant, fixing his salary, as heretofore, at 1,500*l.* and defining his duties. The report having been adopted, five candidates were proposed—Mr. Locke, Mr. Bodkin, Mr. Thomas Chambers, Sir W. Riddell, and Mr. Pulling. Mr. Chambers and Sir W. Riddell having obtained the largest number of votes on a division, the Council again divided; when there were for Mr. Thomas Chambers 102, and for Sir W. Riddell 89 votes. Mr. Chambers was accordingly elected as Common Serjeant.

The scenes which took place on the ice in the different Royal parks on Sunday were such as can with difficulty be described; and it seems a perfect miracle, even to Mr. Williams, the superintendent of the Royal Humane Society, that there were not above a hundred persons drowned during the day. A great many immersions took place, but the arrangements of the Society were such that the unfortunate persons were always rescued. The crowds in the different

parks were immense, and skating, sliding, and snowballing went on vigorously. On Monday, the parks were crowded with skaters and sliders; but though there were several immersions, none were fatal.

The Board of Management of the Early Closing Association passed the following resolutions at its weekly meeting of Wednesday last: 1st. That the board is of opinion that the time has arrived when—as a sequence of its efforts to secure an earlier payment of wages—more direct and active steps should be taken by this association to relieve those employers and assistants who are occupied in shops on Sundays, from the drudgery which is thus entailed upon them, especially as these classes are notoriously the most overworked during the week, particularly on Saturdays. 2nd. That measures be taken to accomplish the great object referred to in the foregoing resolution as soon as the funds of the society are sufficiently augmented to justify the same.

The magistrates specially appointed to conduct the inquiry into the loss of the steamship Tyne (Capt. Breton and Mr. Joseph Lobb) have finally agreed upon their report, which is as follows:

After a most careful and anxious investigation, we cannot arrive at any other opinion than that the ship was lost by the wrongful act and default of Captain Valler, in consequence of the lead not being constantly hove on approaching the land, and in accordance with the company's instructions, and the captain not making due allowance for the wind and strong ebb tide that was running from the time he passed Portland, and the total absence of those precautions necessary to insure the safety of a large ship within so short a distance of the land.

The Board of Trade have suspended the certificate of Captain Valler, the commander of the Tyne, for twelve months. This decision is conveyed in a letter addressed to the Southampton magistrates,

Colonel Tulloch has issued a book entitled "The Crimean Commissioners and the Chelsea Board." This book vindicates the "finding" of the commissioners, and enters into a statistical account of the mortality in the army in the Crimea. The colonel says that the average loss of infantry through disease was 39 per cent.—ten thousand men died, exclusive of men killed in action—and only 1,200 of these were cut off by cholera. He remarks:—

Compared with this, the mortality in our army on all previous occasions sinks into comparative insignificance; even that of Walcheren, which threw the nation into mourning, and for years convulsed our senate, did not exceed a fourth part of the average here recorded. Armies have perished by the sword—they have been overwhelmed by the elements, but never, perhaps, since the hand of the Lord smote the host of the Assyrians, and they perished in a night, has such a loss from disease been recorded as on this occasion. With the graves of ten thousand of their countrymen before their eyes, with the mouldering remains of Britain's choicest cavalry beneath their feet, and with an overwhelming mass of evidence in their possession, to show how much of this loss might have been averted by a proper application of the supplies, could the commissioners be expected to arrive at the conclusion of the board of general officers that for all this no one in the Crimea was to blame?

Law and Police.

FREE REPORTING.—IMPORTANT CASE.—A case of considerable interest was heard in the Court of Queen's Bench on the 23d. There is in Hartlepool a body called the "West Hartlepool Improvement Commission." It has been the custom to publish reports of their meetings in the local papers. At one of these meetings there was an angry discussion, during which some of the Commissioners made use of observations that hurt the feelings of a Mr. Davison. The *Durham and County Advertiser* published a report of the debate, which report has not been impugned. Mr. Davison thereupon brought an action, not against the speakers of the offensive matter, but against the publisher of the journal. The defence was, that the report was a correct and fair report. The plaintiff demurred to this plea, and the Court was called to decide its admissibility. Lord Campbell expressed an opinion, that, as the law now stands, the plea was bad. As the law now stands, a fair account of what takes place in a court of justice is privileged, if made *bona fide*. The public has great interest in knowing what takes place in courts of justice, and what passes there is under the control of the judges; and the inconvenience from allowing that privilege is infinitesimally small compared with the benefit which is conferred upon the public. But when an attempt was made to extend that privilege by legislation, it failed, and till now in a court of justice the doctrine has never been contended for. It might be desirable that the doctrine should be extended; but, without some guarantees for the protection of private character, Lord Campbell thought such publications ought not to be permitted. If the plea were good, a fair account might be published of what took place at a public meeting, whatever injury it might do to private character, from a meeting of the county down to a meeting of a town council—a meeting to levy a rate, or for the removal of a pauper. At such meetings there might be a great number of things said extremely injurious to private character; and if such a plea as the present were a defence, there would be no opportunity for the party to vindicate his character from the aspersions cast upon it. If the Legislature saw fit, it might extend the privilege to certain meetings under certain qualifications: but the Court had to decide according to the law as it now stands. Judgment for the plaintiff. Mr. Justice Coleridge and Mr. Crompton concurred in this decision.

THE DENISON CASE.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Wednesday, arguments were heard and judgment delivered on a rule calling upon Sir John

Dodson, Judge of the Court of Appeal of the Province of Canterbury, to show cause why a mandamus should not issue commanding him to admit a libel of appeal from the decision of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the case of Ditcher v. Denison. It was intimated that Sir John Dodson declined to show cause against the rule, conceiving that it would be more respectful to the Court to adopt that course. Lord Campbell said, there could be no disrespect in Sir John appearing by counsel. Dr. Bayford, on behalf of Mr. Ditcher, having showed cause against the rule, Lord Campbell delivered judgment. Even if the case were doubtful, it would be the duty of the Court to grant a mandamus; but it was not a doubtful question. The Archbishop, when sitting at Bath, was *pro hac vice* sitting as the bishop's substitute, as provided by the statute. The appeal would not be from the archbishop to the judge of the Court of Arches, but from the archbishop acting for the diocesan to the Dean of Arches, in accordance with the statute, which provides that the appeal from a diocesan court shall be "to the archbishop, and shall be heard before the Court of Appeal of the Province," that is, the Court of Arches. Mr. Justice Coleridge, Mr. Justice Wightman, and Mr. Justice Crampton concurred in this view.—Rule made absolute for a mandamus.

THE DOUBLE MURDER IN WALWORTH.—Bacon and his wife, charged with the murder of their two children, were re-examined before Mr. Elliott on Wednesday. Several witnesses were examined, who deposed to the conduct of Bacon immediately after the discovery of the murder: it was nervous, timid, and desponding. The police also produced a pair of trousers and a waistcoat stained with blood. The prisoners were remanded.

THE FORBURY GANG.—Anderson and Saward were on Wednesday again examined before the Lord Mayor. Mr. Alfred Turner, the solicitor, of Red Lion-square, whose name, it will be remembered, was forged to a cheque upon Messrs. Gosling for £10. 7s. 4d., swore to the cheque not being in his handwriting. He had lost three or four blank cheques out of his pocket-book. The wife of Hardwick, convicted some time since for this very forgery, was examined as to her acquaintance with Saward. She knew him well, and had been "to a party" at his house at Walworth. This witness made a certain admission of some importance. When Hardwick was in gaol at Brecon on a charge of burglary, she was sent for him. She went down and bribed the gaolers, who "let" Hardwick out of gaol. Several lodging-house keepers and hotel waiters identified the prisoners, who were ultimately remanded for a week.

Mrs. SEACOLE'S BANKRUPTCY.—Mrs. Seacole appeared in the Court of Bankruptcy on Friday, and, there being no opposition, she was granted immediate certificates of the first class. She was warmly congratulated by the court, and said she was quite ready to go out to India, if she could be of any service to the army.

ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—In the Queen's Bench, on Friday, Lord Campbell said the judges were unanimous that the shareholders were liable, and that a rule for execution against the shareholder named in the case before the Court must be made absolute. This decision was at the same time stated to be in concurrence with the views of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, and also of the Exchequer, before which tribunals analogous points have been raised and are now pending. Little doubt, therefore, can be entertained that proceedings against individual shareholders will henceforth be carried on without exception wherever the person is supposed to possess the slightest means.

THE BISHOP OF EXETER AND THE TIVERTON BURIAL BOARD.—The Tiverton Board of Health, in forming a burial-ground, have separated the ground intended to be consecrated from the unconsecrated ground, by a stone wall eighteen inches high. The Bishop of Exeter has declined to consecrate the portion of the cemetery intended for the burial of members of the Church of England, because the wall is not high enough. Some gentlemen of Tiverton obtained a rule in the Court of Queen's Bench calling on the Board of Health to show cause why they should not put the cemetery in a fit state to be consecrated by the bishop; and on Friday Mr. Serjeant Byles showed cause against the rule. Lord Campbell decided that the rule should be made absolute for a mandamus commanding the Burial Board to place the cemetery in a fit state for consecration, in "order that the Board may make a return and the law be discussed, and that the parties may take the opinion of a Court of Error."

Literature.

British Quarterly Review, No. XLIX. January, 1857. Art.: *The Doctrine of Inspiration*. London: Jackson and Walford.

In our review of Dr. Davidson's volume of the new edition of Horne's *Introduction*, we referred to and quoted from an article in the *British Quarterly* for August, 1851, entitled "Naturalism versus Inspiration," which we attributed to the editor, Dr. Vaughan. In a letter dated 29th November last, Dr. Vaughan complained of our selection of extracts; but declared that "to all that is said in the article in question, on the nature of inspiration, he still adheres; and with one slight shade of exception only, adheres still to all the applications of the doctrine there made," as explained by passages he himself quoted. In the new number of the *British Quarterly*, now before us, is an article on "The Doctrine of Inspiration," to which our attention has been called by

several esteemed correspondents; who point out that, in consequence of Dr. Vaughan's profession of adherence to his formerly declared theories and sentiments, it is to be presumed that the present article is in entire agreement with the doctrine and applications of doctrine previously put forth; and that it, consequently, requires to be noticed by us, that it may not be understood as convicting us of a misinterpretation and improper use of the former article.

On considering the matter, and knowing that this new article has been construed in the manner deprecated by our correspondents, we find ourselves compelled, in justice to our own honesty and competency, to write again on the subject, notwithstanding that we feel unmixed reluctance to do so. But we do not choose to suffer partisan theologasters, and persons equally ignorant of the history of the doctrine of Inspiration, and vulgar in their controversial feeling, to represent us as "illogical and disingenuous;" and so must entreat our readers' patience for a rather full examination of the new article before us.

Any one who compares "The Doctrine of Inspiration" (1857), with "Naturalism versus Inspiration" (1851), will find it abundantly evident that they proceed from the same hand; and that the larger part of the 1851 article, so far as it treats of the nature and extent of Inspiration, is reprinted, with new arrangement of its matter, in the article of 1857,—but, also, with various modifications and omissions. Now, no one has any right to complain that the writer has altered his views; nor should we be entitled to notice the fact in such way as we are about to do, if Dr. Vaughan, as the writer of the first article, had not publicly declared his "adherence to all that is there said," "with one slight shade of exception only," and that in the application of his doctrine. After such a declaration, of course, every one supposes that the two articles expound and defend the same view of Inspiration; and that the writer, who refers to his former self, retracting nothing, and professing no modification, may be relied on as, in 1857, the teacher of what he taught in 1851. But it seems to us that this is very far from the case. We readily admit—first, that the writer's present position is much more clearly and definitely laid down than in his former essay, and that it is an intelligible, self-consistent, and not greatly objectionable position; and, secondly, that this position, as now defined and exposed, is certainly not that of Dr. Davidson, and that the writer is not to be considered as agreeing with Dr. Davidson, any more than (as we shall hereafter show) he is in agreement with Parry, Horne, and Pye Smith. But, our calm and serious view of the matter, as it stands by the publication of this new essay, is, that the reproduction of so much of the article of 1851, with unacknowledged modifications and omissions, is considerably misleading, and, in effect, unfair.

"The Doctrine of Inspiration" contains two direct citations of the article on "Naturalism and Inspiration;" and these are passages quoted by us in part in our review, and subsequently referred to in our reply to Dr. Vaughan's letter. The quotations of these passages are the only two instances of reference to the earlier article; and although, as we have said, the rest of that earlier article is reproduced in the new one, so far as a positive doctrine of Inspiration is contained in each, the reproduction is unconfessed. The reader of both will find several specimens of correspondence like the following:

1851.

"We cite first, the language of prophets in the Old Testament. Nothing can be more clear than that the prophets claimed to be heard and obeyed as men who spoke, not their own word, but 'the word of the Lord.' What they gave forth had not originated with themselves, it had come to them—come to them from God. Thus, in Exodus iv. 14–16, Jehovah says to Moses concerning himself and Aaron, 'I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you,' [&c.] Was not this the action of the Divine upon the Human in the full sense of an inspired guidance? Again, Deut. xviii. 20 *et seq.*, 'But the prophet which shall presume to speak a word in my name which I have not commanded him to speak,' [etc.] Thus a prophet was a man not self-moved, but God-moved; he could speak only what God had commanded him to speak. The people to whom this language was familiar, must have been a people to whom the idea of Inspiration was familiar. The point, indeed, to be settled in this passage was, not that a prophet must be an

1857.

"We shall glance, in the first place, at the language of the prophets of the Old Testament on the subject. The Hebrew prophets claimed to be heard and obeyed as men who spoke, not their own words, but 'the word of the Lord.' Their message did not originate with them, it came to them. In Ex. iv. 14–16, Jehovah says to Moses concerning himself and Aaron, 'I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you,' [etc.] Here we have the action of the Divine upon the Human in the full sense of an inspired guidance. So early did the idea of inspiration become familiar to the Hebrew mind. Again, Deut. xviii. 20, *et seq.*, 'But the prophet which shall presume to speak a word in my name which I have not commanded him to speak,' [etc., &c.] Prophets, accordingly, were men who were not merely self-moved, but God-moved, in their utterance. They were to speak strictly as the Lord had spoken. What is asserted in this form from time to time in the Old Testament Scriptures comes to be in the aggregate a testimony to the whole. 'Who is he

inspired person—that was already sufficiently understood—but how to distinguish between a man really inspired, and a pretender to inspiration. In Jer. ix. 12, we read, 'Who is he to whom the mouth of the Lord hath spoken, that he may declare it?' Then follows a series of verses, beginning with the formula, 'Thus saith the Lord.' In other parts of the same prophet we read [etc.] (xiii. 15; xxx. 4; iv. 1; xli. 12). This language, thus recurrent in Jeremiah, is the language of all the prophets. Furthermore, the instances are almost endless in which the prophets speak of the word of the Lord as coming to them, and as given to them. [1 Kings xii. 22; 1 Chron. xvii. 3; Jer. vii. 1; xi. 1; xvii. 1; xxvi. 1; xxvii. 1; xxx. 1; la. 1. 2; Ezek. iii. 4–11; Hosea. i. 1; Mal. i. 1.] If the passages referred to be consulted, they will suffice to show what the manner of the prophets is on this subject. Now the Divine being intended that these men, by the all but perpetual use of this language, should convey to the mind of the Hebrew people that a prophet's message was not his own but from the Lord—or he did not so intend. If such was his intention, then the question of Inspiration is settled. If such was not his intention, then it is not merely Inspiration that must be surrendered, but revelation in any sense. The prophets not only cease to be prophets, they become knaves, or imbeciles, or a mixture of both."

We give this unacknowledged instance of parallel passages—certainly not because we think the writer wished, by an acknowledgment of two passages from the 1851 article, that the other passages from it, like the above, should escape detection—but, simply to justify our use of the phrase *reproduction*; and that it may be observed how close and almost verbal is this reproduction in particular instances, and where the subject-matter needs no modification in view of present discussions.

But there are, also, unacknowledged modifications, which, we conceive, in the face of Dr. Vaughan's declaration in the letter we have referred to, are highly objectionable, because unacknowledged. We give a few instances:—

1851.

"It is clear, moreover, from the contents of the Scriptures, that there must have been a wide difference both in the *nature* and the *measure* of the influence under which they were written. Very much of what is given us by the sacred writers is given from their natural memory and observation, and no influence of a supernatural kind could have been necessary to enable them to place such things on record. Such influence may have been present with them so far as to have guided them in their selection from such materials, but could not have been necessary beyond that point.

"Surely Paul might write to a friend to bring a cloak with him, and certain parchments, without being under the influence requisite to enable him to give his revelations of the Man of Sin. He could not have discoursed to the Corinthians as he has done on the resurrection, without coming under special and supernatural teaching; but he needed not that same teaching to qualify him for stating to the Churches of Galatia that he went into Arabia, after his conversion, before going to Jerusalem. In the one of these cases, there could be no need of any direct inspiration at all;

1857.

—“belief in the full inspiration of Holy Scripture does not require us to suppose that the inspiration was always the same, either as to its mode or measure... The contents of the Scriptures sustain this view. Much that we find there could be recorded as the effect of purely natural memory; while much beside is of such a nature as to imply the presence of the supernatural in the highest degree. Surely Paul did not need to be inspired after the same manner when requesting that a cloak which he had left behind him should be brought to him, and when predicting the great apostasy, and the revelation of the Man of Sin. His natural memory gave him sufficient warrant to assert that after his conversion he went for a time into Arabia; but something greatly beyond the merely natural is needed when he proceeds to speak of the time, and the order, and the characteristics of the resurrection.”—Pp. 231-2.

in the other, everything was dependent upon it."—P. 222.

The sentences written in 1851 were quoted by us in our review. The new version has modifications which, to say the least, immensely narrow the meaning of the original passage. "Wide difference" in the "nature and measure" of the influence present in inspiration, is reduced to mere difference in "mode and measure;" and the declarations that, in certain cases, to the sacred writers, "no influence of a supernatural kind could have been necessary," and that "there could be no need of any direct inspiration at all," are replaced by the phrase, "not need to be inspired after the same manner." This puts quite a new face on the matter,—unless, the nature of inspiration is the same thing as its mode, and, unless the "Inspiration of superintendence"—which Dr. Vaughan says is "the most limited sense in which the term Inspiration can be used," and which, therefore, must at least be the inspiration (though "not after the same manner" as that present in conveying revelations), under which the writers wrote things learned by "natural memory and observation,"—be, after all, not a "supernatural influence," and "no direct inspiration at all." In the 1851 article, Dr. Vaughan says: Inspiration "in its humblest measure, is supernatural;" (p. 221)—in the same article, he says the sacred writers give us "very much" of that for which "no supernatural influence could have been necessary." If words have any meaning, this is an assertion, that the sacred writers give us very much to which inspiration, even in its humblest measure, does not attach. It is surely a different putting of the case to say, as now, that we are "not required to suppose that the inspiration was always the same." And this difference is in the doctrine, and not in the application of doctrine; and is much more than such a "slight shade" of change of opinion as alone Dr. Vaughan confesses to. Such modification in reproducing what has been six years before the public, and recently the subject of criticism and correspondence, ought most decidedly to have been intimated in the plainest manner.

A less strongly marked case of modification is the following:—

1851.

"If the materials which constitute our Bible were of one kind, it would be reasonable to account the inspiration through which we have received them as being in that respect like them—of one kind. But so great a diversity as to matter—according to all the analogies of nature and grace—implies a diversity as to the mode of the influence affecting it.

"Not a little of the difficulty felt in relation to the doctrine of inspiration, is difficulty arising from misconception as to its proper limits and purpose. It is not designed to constitute each writer a strict type of all the rest, in the sense commonly understood. We regard the doctrinal truth presented to the mind of the inspired writers as being always in substance the same, but this it is manifest was quite consistent with leaving each writer at liberty to contemplate that truth from different points, or in different relations, according to their respective individualities of character. The influence which was consistent with leaving to the sacred writers a diversity in style, was consistent with leaving to them a diversity much more considerable. [We omit the instance of the Gospels.—REVIEWER.] In like manner, the doctrine of Christ as presented by the apostles, does not come before us with all the parts in the same prominence or shadow. The tenth is one, but the mode and measure in which the respective parts of the great scheme are developed, that is not one. In James the doctrinal element is very briefly given; it is to the practical that he aims to impart a sharpness and power of his own. In Peter, the two elements are in something nearer equal proportions; but he does not present the Evangelical verities with the depth and emphasis of John, and still less in the manner of Paul. John's sympathies lie considerably on the side of the contemplative and devotional, —Paul's affinities

connect his spirit with a wider range of doctrinal truth, and, in a large degree, with the more robust and practical tendencies of the Gospel. Now the Divine Being might have avoided all these varieties, as coming thus from the hallowed individualities of the sacred writers, by employing some one eminently full and gifted spirit to have given us a single Gospel, leaving us to deduce our Christianity from the one document of the one man. But such a course, while it would have precluded some of the objections now familiar to us, would have been open to others perhaps much more formidable. These varieties are in the writings of inspired men, because they are in the humanity to which those writings are addressed. By this means, not only may each mind have its own truth, but have its own truth in its own way—that is, adapted to its individual temperament and tendencies. The Bible must be of God, or it is no Bible to us; but it must also be in a large sense of man, if it is to command itself effectually to differences, both natural and conventional, that are inseparable from the condition of man."—P. 226.

This passage, also, was appealed to by us in our review. The modifications to which it has been subjected are comparatively slight, but they considerably alter the complexion of the original passage. The intimation, at its commencement (see supra), that only if the "materials" of the Bible had been "of one kind," would it have been "reasonable to account the inspiration to be in that respect like them, of one kind," means, we suppose, that as the materials are not of one kind, it is unreasonable to account the inspiration as of one kind; but this is now altered to the mere permission, that "we are not obliged to suppose that minds alike inspired" see things "from exactly the same point." The "alike inspired" implies the direct contrary of the formerly stated opinion. Again, all reference to the "proper limits and purpose" of inspiration is omitted: as, also, are the remarks that Peter is wanting in "depth and emphasis" in his presentation of "the Evangelical verities;" and, that the Bible "must be, in a large sense, of man." These alterations in a passage, which, otherwise, is nearly verbally preserved, manifestly give a new colour to the remainder. Nothing is to be objected to the fact of modification; but it is strongly to be objected to, that, in the absence of any acknowledgment of modification, people should erroneously suppose that they can infer the character of the earlier article from that of the later.

For the now following passages we earnestly beg the reader's most careful attention:—

1851.

"The imprecatory portions of the Psalms . . . how are we to deal with them? It may be said that they are prophetic. But can this be said to have been the case with all of them? And, could this be said, they were purely matters of history at the time. Can any man say that there is nothing in these breathings of vengeance that should not belong to his own daily habit of mind? Who, with the New Testament before him, does not feel that this cannot be? How is it that devout persons, in their family readings, so commonly avoid these portions of the sacred records? When the captive Hebrew calls for vengeance on his Babylonian oppressors, for vengeance as terrible as those oppressors had inflicted on him and his nation, the poet-psalmist speaks as a man and a patriot; but no one will say, we suppose, that it becomes us to insist, after this manner, on having—upon the principle of the *lex talionis*, the principle of justice without mercy—an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. Now, may it not have seemed good to the Holy Ghost that these expressions of natural feeling should be found in the Bible, without his intending to place them before us as exhibiting the spirit we should emulate? In so far

employed to write the Scriptures, are varieties that will never cease to have their counterpart among the people and nations anticipated as readers of the Scriptures. In this way, not only does each mind get, if we may so speak, its own truth, but gets it in its own way. The inspired writers are allowed to manifest these individualities, because they are such as will never fail to be common among men. The Divine wisdom here tells us that it is not in the one mode of any one of the sacred writers that we have what is best, but in the varieties of mode embracing them all. In these varieties we have the destined fulness of Scripture—in these parts we have the whole."—P. 233-5.

"Thus the Divine predictions, which consist of pure truth, may have been grafted upon elements in human history which partook in a measure of human infirmity. The ethical in such passages was in great part of man, and may not have been without fault; while the prophetic was of God, and consisted of truth only."—P. 237.

A comparison of these paragraphs, and a due observation of the sentences in italics, will show that the modification here amounts to an entire change of opinion; and the change is one, which neither the theologian in his treatment of this perplexed topic, nor the pious reader in his instinctive feeling of its moral difficulties, will consider as only a "slight shade" of difference. We do not stay to comment on Dr. Vaughan's conversion to Hengstenberg's Messianic interpretation of the vindictive psalms—though we have long concluded that view to be a horrible blasphemy, which presents our blessed Lord to his enemies as a revenging, remorseless being, whose unquenchable hate is armoured by his dreadful deity, and whose almighty gluts itself with destructions. But Dr. Vaughan's abandonment of his former position,—that these psalms, though contained in the Scriptures, are there, to a great extent, "without any direct and positive inspiration," and that "the ethical in such passages was in great part of man," and that "Divine predictions" may have been grafted on elements "which partook in a measure of human infirmity,"—this is not such an inconsiderable trifle as to need no acknowledgment in an article evidently caused by, and glancing at, a controversy in which the abandoned position has been regarded as under Dr. Vaughan's special care and defence. Of course he has a perfect right to change his view; but that change will not alter the fact, that Dr. Vaughan has been for six years committed before the public to an opinion vastly stronger than anything Dr. Davidson has written—and has not been impeached for holding it. Were he so impeached—for this or any other debatable opinion on what we regard as properly an open question—we should be the very first to espouse his cause, and with the vehemence of old personal attachments and associations.

But, besides the modifications and changes of opinion, of which we give these instances, this 1857 article altogether omits certain passages from its reproduction of that of 1851; and these omissions, in our own opinion—and we think it will be the opinion of all by whom the two articles are read—further change the view of the Doctrine of Inspiration, as a whole, and especially in relation to the more difficult phenomena of the sacred writings, which was originally put forward. We give one instance. After discussing the principle in the earlier article—that expressions of human feeling are sometimes contained in Scripture as facts of history, and not as inspired truth: the Ode of Deborah is given as an instance, and the question put, "Whether, though it is true she was a prophetess, she may not, in this song, have given expression to the feeling of her people, and to nothing more?" An objection to the principle is then answered; upon which follows this now omitted passage:—

"But having gone thus far, may we not safely go a little further, and ask—May not a man who is inspired as to what he writes or delivers, and not always as to what he does; and who gives utterance to some things by a positive inspiration, and to others only by a negative guidance, or permission; may not such a man, when speaking only in connexion with this latter influence, be sometimes allowed to speak so purely from himself as to evince more of the infirmity of man than of the inspiration of the prophet? Have we not a case manifestly to this effect in the history of Jonah? We may regard the message of the prophet to the people of Nineveh as an inspired message; but how much was said and done by the prophet, when sent to deliver that message, that cannot be regarded for moment as proceeding from a good influence of any description? In this view, there is nothing that should surprise us in the language of Job or Deborah, or in those portions of the Psalms to which reference has been made. It is God condescending to engrave the perfect on the imperfect—the true upon the erring.

"We should add, however, that in respect to the inspired writers of the New Testament, we do not see the need of any application of this rule of interpretation beyond the limits in which it is by common consent admitted. It is in relation to those earlier Scriptures, which have descended to us from times so peculiar and remote, and in which the historical element is so much

more conspicuous than the doctrinal, that this somewhat larger application of the rule explained seems to be demanded. Even in that connexion, we do not press it upon those who do not feel their need of it; but we must say that, to ourselves, there is no comparison to be made between the difficulty of receiving the doctrine of inspiration, subject to this restriction, and that of rejecting it altogether."—P. 239-40.

There is another omission of a remark on a supposed case, which was put thus:—

"—it would not follow that he [a writer] has not been inspired to write anything, because he has not been inspired to write everything he has written. We do not ourselves believe in the case here supposed, as a case existing, but we can conceive of such partial inspiration as a possibility."

But this admission now entirely disappears; because, it would seem, the close of the new article was designed to strike down those who, since the above-quoted admission of six years ago, have defended the view of so-called "partial" inspiration, which even Dr. Vaughan conceived to be possible, and which he did not then regard as involving the conclusion he now propounds,—that: "Partial inspiration has been found to have its natural issue in non-inspiration." Such omissions as those now indicated leave the substance of a view of Inspiration from which such considerations are excluded, a very different affair from what it was when they were included.

Taking, then, all the modifications and omissions together, we emphatically repeat, that they materially alter the character and scope of the view of Inspiration Dr. Vaughan formerly put forth. Of this we do not at all complain; but we protest against a professed adherence to the same view, when, as we have shown, the peculiar characteristics of that view have been unconfessedly surrendered.

Before we close, we wish to point out, that Dr. Vaughan, in this new article, tells us—in substantial agreement with what he formerly wrote—that, "David was inspired as a Psalmist, but we may doubt his inspiration when, in his ode upon the death of Saul, he can be blind to the errors of the dead king, and attribute qualities to him in a manner partaking more of poetic licence than of truthfulness." Dr. Pye Smith gives the same instance. And again, Dr. Vaughan says, "the contents of the song of Deborah oblige us to distinguish between Deborah as an inspired messenger, and Deborah simply as a poetess." Very well:—then inspired persons were not always inspired; and the writings of inspired persons, produced without inspiration, are to be found in the Scriptures. Once concede this, and where will you stop? Is Dr. Vaughan only to decide which are the uninspired writings of inspired persons? Dr. Vaughan objects to the theory of the inspiration of the Moral and the Religious only in the Scriptures, "that it devolves on common readers the difficult, if not the impossible task, of separating the moral and religious from material declared to be more or less deceptive"—(the words "more or less deceptive" being a controversial translation of the phrase *historical element*):—but, is there not an intenser form of this difficulty, for the poor common reader, when he is called on to separate for himself, in the productions of admittedly inspired persons, an element that is uninspired? It is little, that uninspired sayings and writings are "guaranteed" to him as authentic, by being adopted as parts of the record given by inspiration; he wants to know which are the parts of this inspired record consisting of these uninspired utterances. It is not a case of the utterances of men who make no claim to inspiration at all—like Job's friends and others whose sayings are preserved as history:—it is a case of uninspired utterances by inspired men, whose inspired and uninspired utterances are not distinguished from each other in the record containing both. We want to know how it is to be determined when an inspired man speaks as uninspired? It is vain to say, that "the general, clear, and certain teaching" the book contains, will guide in this sifting; for every man, according to his individuality or his prepossessions, will find this or that to be "clear and certain," and other teaching less "clear and certain." It is as easy for the advocates of the inspiration of the moral and religious elements only, as it is easy for Dr. Vaughan, to say, that "no man of ordinary discernment needs fail of making such distinctions." The truth is, that this distinction, be it true or false, involves the essence of the principle of what Dr. Vaughan calls "partial" inspiration:—that there is in the Bible an *uninspired* to be discriminated from an *inspired* element. But this form of the principle is the more open to objection as uncertain and dangerous; for instead of saying—"All inspired persons, save in a purely exceptional case, had their inspiration constantly, though in degrees; but that inspiration extended only to the moral and religious:—this view says,—An inspired person was not always inspired, but when the inspiration came he was inspired about everything; only you have to find out when he was inspired and when he was not, for he spoke and wrote in both conditions, and did not put on record what

productions originated in the one or the other of these conditions.

Next week we shall return to this *British Quarterly* article, that we may show that its attempt to deprive certain views of the sanction of Dr. Pye Smith's name, is without any just foundation; and that its statement as to Dr. Pye Smith's final expression of opinion on Inspiration is utterly incorrect from beginning to end.

The Church and Slavery. By ALBERT BARNES. Philadelphia, and Trübner and Co. Paternoster-row.

THIS book as coming from an American minister, of high and hard-earned repute, is in many respects remarkable. The time of its publication (for it is an 1857 book) is opportune. Though the Buchanan party will strive to shelve the slavery question, public opinion, when once roused on any great subject of national policy or of national morals, rests not until full justice is done to its behests. And no thoughtful student of past or present history, can fail to perceive that this is THE QUESTION of questions in America at the present moment. "There never has been," says Mr. Barnes, "a time when the Union was really in danger until now. There has never been a time when the system of slavery has been so bold, exacting, arrogant, and dangerous to liberty as at the present time." . . . "The only thing that has ever threatened to destroy the Union, and the only thing that alienates one portion of the land from the other, is slavery." Then comes the question how far the *Church* is connected with this state of things, and how far it is responsible for it. To these questions Mr. Barnes addresses himself with manly vigour and with a noble purpose. He shows beyond all controversy the guilty complicity of ministers of religion and of Church members with the slavery of the Southern States; and this connexion of the Church with slavery, not accidental, not the holding of slaves merely by "inheritance, or by a legal relation for the good of the slave; not because they are aged and need a protector; and not in transitu for the purpose of emancipating them;" but "as slaves, as property," with an express determination to "make worldly gain" out of them; under laws which prevent the marriage relation and which forbid their instruction: and the Church is supported in its countenance of this enormous wrong by a religious press that boldly advocates slavery as a patriarchal institution, and by religious pulpits (very "orthodox," as Mr. Barnes says) that Sunday after Sunday teach hundreds of thousands of professing Christians that "man may buy what is woman born and feel no shame." To those who are interested in this question this book will be most valuable in assisting the formation of conclusions utterly opposed to the most anomalous condition of society, in a nominally Christian and boastfully free country, that has ever cursed the face of God's earth. In heartily recommending this book let us remind ourselves and our readers of Thomas Carlyle's words, which are full of comfort when one's mind is appalled with the study of a social evil so enormous as slavery: "Great is Bankruptcy: the great bottomless gulf into which all falsehoods, public and private, do sink disappearing. Honour to bankruptcy, ever righteous on the great scale, though in detail so cruel; under all falsehoods it works unweariedly ruining. No falsehood, did it rise heaven-high and cover the world, but bankruptcy one day will sweep it down and make us free of it."

The Comforter; or, Joy in the Holy Ghost. A Word for the Restless. London: Nisbet and Co., Berners-street. 1856.

THE anonymous author of this unpretending, yet suggestive little volume, is known to many as the writer of a work on the "Revelation of St. John," analysed and expounded. The present publication is a well-timed and happy deliverance on important topics. We wish it had been called "a word for the thoughtful," instead of "a word for the restless." Nevertheless, it is a good book, and of that convenient size that it can be carried in a small pocket, and read a little at a time, which we suggest is the most fitting method for books of this class.

We give two extracts, not only as average specimens, but as indicative of the thoughts, true or otherwise, that are agitating the religious world, and that do and must find utterance, in spite of anathemas and excommunications.—

"In these days of increasing doubt and denial, it is of great importance to distinguish clearly between matters which are directly revealed to us, and those which rest on mere inference. Nothing can be plainer than the teachings of Scripture in relation to those who deliberately reject the Gospel, and 'count themselves unworthy of eternal life.' For such 'there remaineth only a fearful looking for of judgment and of fiery indignation that shall devour the adversary.' But of that great multitude, heathen or Christian, of whom it can never truthfully be said that they have so heard and known the message of mercy as to have either accepted or rejected it, little or nothing is revealed. We may conjecture from inferences of our own, that every human being necessarily remains for ever in the moral state in which he leaves this world, but Scripture nowhere says so, the text, 'as the tree falls, so it shall lie,' has really nothing whatever to do with the question. It is but a bold assumption to say of those whom Christ mourned over as 'sheep without a shepherd,' that they shall never lie 'down in green pastures,' and never be 'laid beside the still waters'; that the dark mind shall never be illumined, nor the broken heart ever healed. Oh, why will we be wise above that which is written, or hastily conclude with Jonah, that God must be untrue and its ministers false prophets, if, at the end of the forty days Nineveh shall not be destroyed?

The silence of Scripture may be hopeful as well as awful."—P. 36.

And once more—it is a little book to make these large quotations from, but we hope this will not prevent our readers getting the book—the writer calls attention to "the very contemptible end for which too many of us are content to live. I say contemptible, because it is so narrow and selfish. Safety is not the end of our religion, it is only the starting point. Nothing is more melancholy than to see the followers of Christ praying every day and all their lives for the salvation of their souls instead of believing those blessed words, 'He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet; to cleanse his daily walk, purify his desires and conscience from the daily sin, and then with grateful affection showing the thankfulness of the heart by living happily in God's service."—P. 50.

Gleanings.

Mr Lumley has just concluded an engagement with Mdlle. Piccolomini for three years.

The salaries of ministers at foreign courts amount to 124,222*l.* a year.

Horse-racing is against the law in Boston, New York, so they called a race "a grand agricultural horse exhibition," and purses are called "premiums."

Two lively black girls, about 5*½* years old, united inseparably together *dos-à-dos* by the termination of their back-bones, are attracting much attention in Edinburgh.

The *Sunderland Herald* says that about 200 pittmen, residing in and around Sunderland and Durham, are preparing to take flight in spring for Australia.

A comical story comes from Berlin. Two ladies went to the Royal ball at the Opera house in a furniture-van—no ordinary carriage could contain the immense dresses they wore!

During the four months ending 1856, 7,850 tons, or seventeen millions of pounds weight of currants, have been taken in for consumption by the English people alone.

An announcement of a music school, which is to be founded at the Surrey Hall, has been put forth. This, among its provisions, includes gratuitous instruction, and the introduction to the public of young professors. M. Jullien is at its head.

Mr. Charles Mathews writes to the *Times* to deny his marriage with "the pretty Miss Oliver of Gloucester." Mr. Albert Smith is obliged to make a similar denial on his own account, respecting another young lady!

A clergyman at an afternoon service was asked to read a notice for a woman's rights lecture, which he did in this wise: "At half-past six o'clock, at the school-house in the first district, a *hen* will attempt to crow."

The West Ham Distillery Company, which has given notice to supply customers this month, will, it is said, initiate its business with a dinner to sixty gentlemen in one of the mighty vats which form a portion of its enormous plant, newly erected at an expense of 30,000*l.*

The "oldest inhabitant" of Hexham has departed—John Bell, a farmer, who formerly was an active smuggler on the Border. He had attained at least his hundred-and-tenth year. He was rather short and slender, but "wiry;" he was temperate both in eating and drinking.

With regard to the ages of persons who have insured their lives, it seems that at the Amicable the most aged on whom a policy has been paid died at 97; the Pelican, 97; Royal Exchange, 96; Equitable, 95; Albion, 95; Rock, 94; Imperial, 94; Union, 94; Atlas, 92; Law, 92; Sun, 92, and London, 90.

The inconvenience and uncertainty arising out of the recent division of London into postal districts will be removed by adopting an envelope which has just been issued by Messrs Pinches, of Oxendon-street. The names of the chief streets, with their divisions, are neatly printed inside the envelope, while on the outside are impressed the initials of the district to (or from) which it is sent.

At a country house, where Sheridan was on a visit, an old maid desired to be his companion in a walk. He excused himself at first on the ground of the badness of the weather. She soon afterwards detected him in an attempt to escape without her. "Well," she said, "it is cleared up, I see." "Why, yes," he answered, "it is cleared up enough for one, but not enough for two."

The following is a copy of a message recently sent by telegraph:—

"To _____
"Third Epistle of John, 13 and 14 verses.
"Signed, _____."

By referring to the text it will be seen that there is quite a respectable letter contained in the verses designated, and likewise a small amount of money saved, namely:—"I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write, to thee. But trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet thy friends by name."—3rd John, 13*th* and 14*th*.

The Chinese, says Mr. Montgomery Martin, at a recent lecture, eat everything, from a rat to an elephant, and have thus exterminated all the savage animals, and even the serpents. At a grand dinner given by a mandarin the table was covered with dishes; and, as he did not understand the language, he pointed to a dish near him, and inquiringly uttered,

[FEB. 4, 1857.]

"Quack, quack?" His neighbour shook his head, and replied, "Bow, bow!" And most other dishes were composed of articles that Europeans reject as food. The Chinese even make use of earth-worms, which they dry and grind into powder for snuff.

"General" Tom Thumb, notwithstanding all the pains taken to puff him off, does not draw, and he condescends to exhibit himself at taverns and casinos. The Lord Mayor has given orders that his carriage shall not be allowed to come through Temple-bar because it creates crowds and confusion.

The new number of the *Quarterly* contains an anecdote of Lord Raglan, when wounded at Waterloo. The authority is the Prince of Orange. The Prince, we are told, used to recount that not a word announced the entry of a new patient, nor was he conscious of the presence of Lord Raglan (then Lord F. Somerset) till he heard him call out in the usual way—"Hallo! don't carry away that arm till I have taken off my ring." Neither the wound nor the operation had extorted a groan from the wounded soldier.

BIRTHS.

Jan. 24, the wife of the Rev. THOMAS HIND, Workington, Cumberland, of a son.

Jan. 29, at Ramsgate, the wife of MARTIN DANIEL, Esq., of a son.

Jan. 31, at Edinburgh, the wife of the Rev. JAMES MARTIN, of a son.

Feb. 2, at 3, Victoria-road South, Kentish-town, Mrs. CHARLES THEODORE JONES, of a daughter.

Feb. 2, at the Waldrons, Croydon, Mrs. JENKINS JONES, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Jan. 29, at Esher-street Chapel, by the Rev. J. Barritt, of Emmanuel Chapel, Kensington-road, PHILIP HERAFATH, Esq., to Miss EMMA MARCH, of Kentish-town, sister of the Rev. S. MARCH, of Foster-lane Chapel, London.

Jan. 30, at the Baptist Chapel, Myrtle-street, Liverpool, by the Rev. H. S. Brown, Mr. T. HORROX, to ANNE, widow of Mr. C. PADLEY, Junr., of Waterloo.

Jan. 31, at the parish church, St. Marylebone, by the Hon. and Rev. J. T. Pelham, Dr. KING, of Savile-row, to ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of the late OSWALD JOSEPH LUMLEY, Esq., and step-daughter of Wm. GOLDEN LUMLEY, Esq., of Sussex-place, Egmont-park.

Jan. 31, at Leicester, LEWIS SLIGHT, Esq., of Brighton and Burgess-hill, Sussex, to LYDIA, widow of the late SAMUEL KIRBY, Esq., of Anstey Firth, and of Leicester, banker.

DEATHS.

Dec. 3, killed, at Canton, whilst discharging his professional duties, deeply regretted, WM. COWPER, Esq., Captain commanding Royal Engineers, eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel COWPER, Hon. East India Company's Bombay Engineers.

Dec. 10, at Bushire, from wounds received the previous day, in storming the fort at that place, Lieutenant WM. BLACKBURN WARREN, 26th Bombay Native Infantry, second son of the late Lieutenant DAWSON WARREN, Royal Artillery, aged twenty-four.

Jan. 16, in Guernsey, after a residence there of more than forty years, the Rev. W. LAXON, at an advanced age.

Jan. 21, at the residence of his son-in-law, the Rev. James Spong, Mortimer House, De Beauvoir-town, London, GEORGE OSSOON, Esq., late of Newport Pagnell, in his eighty-first year.

Jan. 24, Mr. JOSEPH MATHER, of Stockport, a gentleman who has for upwards of sixty years been a distinguished patron of gratuitous education, and one of the founders of the Stockport Sunday-school, the largest educational establishment in the world, in his eighty-fourth year.

Jan. 26, at Totteridge, Herts, JOHN WOOD, Esq., aged seventy-four.

Jan. 28, at Ennif Giff, county of Tyrone, the Hon. and Rev. CHARLES DOUGLAS, brother of the Earl of MORTON, in his sixty-sixth year.

Jan. 28, at Upcott House, near Taunton, Lieutenant-General Sir NATHANIEL THORN, K.C.B., K.H., Colonel of the 3rd Regiment of Foot.

Jan. 29, at Glasgow, the Rev. JAMES SMITH, M.A., of Palace New-road, Lambeth, author of "The Divine Drama of History and Civilization," and many other literary labours, aged fifty-five.

Jan. 31, at his residence, Dunmow, Essex, the Rev. JOSEPH MORISON, thirty-nine years pastor of the Independent Church at Stebbing, Essex, aged seventy-three.

Feb. 1, at Betchworth House, Surrey, the Hon. JANE, widow of the Right Hon. HENRY GOULBURN, and sister of Lord ROXBURY.

Money Market, and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, TUESDAY EVENING.

The Stock market has been very quiet during the week. To day prices finally closed $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. higher than yesterday. The other departments of the Stock Exchange were also somewhat firmer this afternoon. Consols, for money and Thursday, stood in the morning at 93, "buyers," and closed at 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4. For the March account the closing price was 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4. In the discount market to-day there was again a steady demand for money, but a fair supply, and thus no pressure was experienced. The current terms are equal to those of the Bank. The preparations for to-morrow (the 4th) seem to occasion little or no disturbance in the market.

The withdrawals of gold from the Bank to-day for exportation do not appear to have exceeded 10,000*l.*, in addition to a sum of about similar amount taken out yesterday. The steamer Tagus has brought in 46,559*l.* in specie from the Peninsula. The exact amount of specie and bullion shipped on board the Rapon, which is to leave Southampton for Alexandria to-morrow, is 971,328*l.*, exceeding by 136,027*l.*, the largest remittance ever previously despatched by this route. The proportion of silver is 952,940*l.*, and of gold only 18,388*l.*

Foreign shares are inactive. The Railway Share Market to-day was well supported; and in the afternoon the tendency was rather towards improvement.

During the last month the range of Consols has been limited to 1*£* per cent., but it has been entirely in a downward direction. The improvement established during the two preceding months has therefore been almost wholly lost.

The trade reports from the manufacturing towns, for the past week contain little of importance, but with the exception of the Manchester markets, the general tendency has still been towards increased employment and higher prices. The heaviness in cotton goods is chiefly consequent upon the caution induced by the uncertainty regarding the raw material. At Birmingham the demand for iron is well maintained, and, with respect to the general occupations of the place, the only drawback appears to consist in the constant rise in copper and other metals. The Nottingham advices describe an animated colonial and home demand for hosiery, while the lace trade is also active. Many new factories are in course of construction, and there is a great scarcity of hands. In the woollen districts the home and export demand has been equally good; stocks are low, and employment general. In the Irish linen-markets there has been a full business, in some instances at improved prices.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the past week comprised four vessels—two to Sydney, one to Port Phillip, and one to Geelong, with an aggregate capacity of 3,467 tons. The rates of freight generally exhibit heaviness.

In the general business of the port of London during the past week there was a considerable falling off in the arrivals. The number of vessels reported inward was 109, being forty-five less than in the previous week. The total number of ships cleared outward was 101, showing an increase of sixteen. The number on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 68, being three more than at the last account. Of these nine are for Adelaide, five for Geelong, four for Hobart Town, three for Launceston, three for Melbourne, three for New Zealand, twenty-one for Port Phillip, one for Portland Bay, seventeen for Sydney, one for Swan River, and one for Wellington.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
Spec Ct. Consols	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	92 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$
Consols for Ac-						
count	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	92 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$
Spec Cent. Red.	93 $\frac{1}{4}$					
New 3 per Cent.						
Annuities	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$
India Stock	219	219	218 $\frac{1}{2}$	218 $\frac{1}{2}$	219	219
Bank Stock	217 $\frac{1}{2}$	217 $\frac{1}{2}$	217 $\frac{1}{2}$	216	217 $\frac{1}{2}$	217 $\frac{1}{2}$
Exchequer-bills	3 dis	2 dis	1 dis	par	1 pm	3 pm
India Bonds	—	—	par	3 dis	par	par
Long Annuities	18	18	18	18	18	18
	1-16	—	—	—	—	—

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's *Gazette*.)

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, c. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 24th day of Jan., 1857.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£23,941,695	£23,941,695
Government Debt	£11,015,100	£11,015,100
Other Securities	3,459,908	3,459,908
Gold Coin & Bullion	9,466,695	9,466,695
Silver Bullion	—	—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital £14,553,000	Government Securities (including Dead Weight Annuity) £11,569,431
Rest	3,389,140
Public Deposits	4,122,921
Other Deposits	9,985,005
Seven Day and other Notes	4,851,730
Bills	849,836

£32,899,902

Jan. 29, 1857. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Friday, January 30, 1857.

BANKRUPTCY.

GROOM, G., Norwich, boot and shoe factor, Feb. 10, March 10; solicitors, Mr. Jay, Bucklersbury; and Mr. Jay and Pilgrim, Norwich.

BUTCHER, J., Church-street, Hackney, licensed victualler, Feb. 10, March 10; solicitor, Mr. Chidley, Basinghall-street.

PERVANOGULU, J. A., Union-court, Old Broad-street, merchant, Feb. 13, March 18; solicitors, Messrs. Cole, Lime-street, City.

LAWRENCE, J. T., Shoreditch, upholsterer, Feb. 13, March 18; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers.

PORTER, E., Newmarket, Suffolk, grocer, Feb. 13, March 20; solicitors, Messrs. Richardson and Sadler, Old Jewry-chambers, Old Jewry.

WOODS, W., Union-street, Southwark, hook and eye manufacturer, Feb. 10, March 10; solicitors, Messrs. Turner and Son, Mount-place, Whitechapel-road.

WHITE, W., Shadwell, Middlesex, miller, Feb. 6, March 10; solicitors, Messrs. Martens and Co., Mincing-lane.

BASKERVILLE, G., Talk-on-the-Hill, Staffordshire, innkeeper, Feb. 13, March 6; solicitors, Messrs. Hodgson and Allen, Birmingham.

BURT, W., St. Stephens by Launceston, Cornwall, builder, Feb. 10, March 5; solicitors, Messrs. Gurney and Coward, Launceston; and Mr. Stogden, Exeter.

FELL, J., Liverpool, wholesale tea dealer, Feb. 23, March 16; solicitor, Mr. Duke, Liverpool.

JONES, J., Preston, Lancashire, tailor, Feb. 16, March 2; solicitors, Messrs. Bray and Gilbertson, Preston; and Mr. Rowley and Son, Manchester.

CROWTHORPE, E., Manchester, merchant, Feb. 13, March 6; solicitors, Messrs. Bootle and Jellicoe, Manchester.

DODGE, W., and SKELTON, J., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, timber merchants, Feb. 11, March 11; solicitors, Messrs. Chater, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Tuesday, February 3, 1857.

BANKRUPTCY.

BRYAN, J., Dyer's-buildings, Holborn, electro-plater, Feb. 13, March 24; solicitor, Mr. Smith, Warwick-court, Holborn.

BAKER, S., Birmingham, ironfounder, Feb. 13, March 6; solicitors, Messrs. Colicott and Canning, Dudley; and Messrs. Hodgeson and Allen, Birmingham; and Mr. Reece, Birmingham.

WHARTON, J. C., Stourbridge, Worcestershire, licensed victualler, Feb. 16, March 9; solicitors, Mr. Collis, Stourbridge; and Mr. Knight, Birmingham.

TYLER, W., and TYLER, J., King's Bromley, Staffordshire, millers, Feb. 19, March 12; solicitors, Mr. Bowen, Stafford; and Messrs. Wright, Birmingham.

WOODALL, G., Carlisle, Cumberland, grocer, Feb. 17, March 19; solicitors, Mr. Donald, Carlisle; Messrs. Maples and Co., London; and Mr. Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

HATFIELD, J. A., Bradford, Yorkshire, draper, Feb. 20, March 20; solicitors, Messrs. Rawson and Co., Bradford; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

HOLMES, J., Bramham, Yorkshire, builder, Feb. 20, March 20; solicitors, Mr. Bickers, Tadcaster; and Messrs. Caris and Cudworth, Leeds.

WILKS, J., Whitby, Yorkshire, butcher, Feb. 20, March 20; solicitors, Messrs. Buchanan and Gray, Whitby; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 2.

We had a small quantity of English wheat at market this morning, and a very moderate supply of foreign, but a good quantity of American flour. The weather being cold and frosty, holders of wheat asked an advance of 1*s.* per quarter upon last Monday's prices, but

Bengal sold; Benares, 31s 6d to 6s; and 4,000 bags Madras were also offered and half sold, 42s to 45s 6d. The refined shows a slight advance: lumps, 6s to 6s 6d. A limited business has been done in Manila by private contract.

CORSA.—Plantation and native Ceylon have been sold at full prices by private contract. 300 packages Mocha found buyers in public sale, 6s to 7s 6d.

TEA.—A fair amount of business was done in common congeou, at 13d, late in the day.

RICE.—7,000 bags Rangoon were offered in public sale, and bought at 10s. The market continues inactive.

RUM.—This article continues dull of sale.

COTTON.—There has been a good demand. 1,200 bales sold.

OIL.—Linseed is quoted 41s 6d to 42s.

TALLOW has further advanced, and quoted 6s 6d to 6s on the spot and March delivery.

SALT-PEPPER.—2,000 bags sold in public sale. Refraction 7s to 8s, 42s 6d to 43s; reflection 25 to 27s, 38s to 38s 6d.

COCHINER.—330 bags were offered in public sale, a large portion being damaged sold at 1s 6d to 3s 1d; the sound partly quoted: Tenerife, 4s to 4s 6d; Lima, 4s 2d to 4s 6d; Honduras, 2s 6d to 3s 1d.

SAYFLOWER.—33 bales Bengal sold at 77s 6d to 82s 6d for good quality.

MADDER ROOT.—45 bales Bombay were taken in at 40s.

PLUMAGE.—35 barrels bought in at 16s to 11s.

CASTOR OIL.—150 cans, mostly sold at 5d to 7d.

ASSARAGIDA.—27 chests bought in at 25s to 35s.

RED SANDERS WOOD.—22 tons bought in at 8s.

INDIGO.—12,900 chests are declared for the next quarterly sale on Tuesday, the 10th inst.

IRON remains quoted at 7s 6d to 7s 6d.

COVENT-GARDEN, Saturday, Jan. 31.—The supply of most things is pretty well kept up, but trade is dull. Fries have altered little since our last report. French salting continues to be furnished; it consists of endive, lettuces, and haricots du capucin. Good Cornish broccoli may still be had. Forced vegetables comprise beans, seakale, asparagus, and rhubarb. Cucumbers may also be obtained. Pineapples and hothouse grapes may still be purchased at last week's quotations. Pears are dear. Apples also realise high prices. Kent cobe fetch 13s per 100 lbs.; Barcelona nuts, 20s per bushel; new Spanish and Brazil, 18s ditto; and chestnuts from 14s to 24s per bushel. Oranges are abundant. Portugal onions fetch from 2s to 3s per dozen. Potatoes have altered little since our last report. Cut flowers consist of orchids, Chinese primulas, cinerarias, gardenias, violets, camellias, mignonette, heaths, and roses.

POTATOES, BOXTON AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Feb. 2.—For the time of year, about average supplies of potatoes have come to hand since our last report, and in middling condition. The best qualities have sold ready at full price, but inferior parcels have ruled dull. Last week's imports were 148 bags 2 baskets, 85 tons from Rotterdam, and 75 bags from Schiedam. York regents, 9s 6d to 12s; Kent and Essex ditto, 10s to 13s; Lincoln, 8s 6d to 10s; Scotch, 8s to 11s; ditto rads, 7s 6d to 8s; foreign, 8s to 7s 6d per ton.

WOOL, COTTON, Jan. 31.—Our trade and prospects continue good and the supply of wool limited, compared with the usual quantity available for the consumers' demands at this season of the year; the deficient clips of the last two years being very obviously felt, on account of the great demand which has absorbed all the old stocks, which at this time last year were lying in the farmers' stores, and has now so nearly consumed the last year's production that by the next clipping season it is expected there will be scarcely any stock remaining in the wool merchants' hands. There will, however, be wool enough to last until that period, as although the trade generally are short in stock, there are some who are very large holders.

	s. d.	s. d.
Down dogs	1 7	1 8
Half-bred hogs	1 6	1 7
Kent fleeces	1 5	1 6
Down swans	1 5	1 6
Leicester fleeces	1 4	1 5
Combining skin	1 3	1 5
Flannel wool	1 2	1 6
Blanket wool	0 10	1 2

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c.—We continue to have a dull market for flax, yet prices are supported. Hemp is in better request. Petersburgh clean, 36s 16s; cutshot, 34s to 34s 10s; full-clean, 32s to 32s 10s; and Riga Rhine, 37s to 37s 10s per ton. Coir goods are firm, but jute is heavy.

TALLOW, Monday, Feb. 2.—Since Monday last, our market has ruled very firm, and prices have had an upward tendency. To-day P.Y.C. on the spot is quoted at 6s 6d per cwt; town tallow, 6s 6d nett cash; rough fat, 2s 6d per lb.

PARTICULARS.

	1855.	1856.	1855.	1856.	1857.
Casks.	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.
Stock	41859	38861	40470	23657	11729
48s 9d 62s 0d	36s 6d 58s 0d	36s 6d 58s 6d			
Price of Yellow Candle	to	to	to	to	to
44s 0d	0s 0d	0s 0d	0s 0d	0s 0d	0s 0d
Delivery last Week	3129	1981	1721	684	1757
Ditto from the 1st of June	73011	73011	65729	82193	85024
Arrived last Week	334	1114	6072	2369	1347
Ditto from the 1st of June	74142	69459	61199	59308	79773
Price of Town Tallow	8s 6d 64s 0d	57s 3d 54s 0d	64s 0d	64s 0d	64s 0d

OILS, Monday, Feb. 2.—Lined oil is in good request, at 40s 6d to 41s per avn on the spot. Rape is dull, and drooping. Foreign refined, 52s 6d; brown, 50s 6d to 51s. Linseed oil is doing in olive, but palm is steady, at 42s to 47s. Cocoanut oil is worth 48s 6d to 51s, sperm 86s to 90s; cod 48s 10s to 49s; seal, 45s to 50s. Turpentine moves slowly.

HOPS, BOXONOS, Monday, Feb. 2.—During the past week the trade has continued steady. The stock of fine samples on offer has become limited, but the currency continues firm. Middling and inferior qualities may be purchased on rather easier terms.

METALS, LONDON, Saturday, Jan. 31.—There has been a moderate demand for Scotch pig iron, at 7s 3d to 7s 9d cash. Rails are selling at 81s 5d to 87s 10s; sheets, 10s 15s to 11s per ton. Copper is firm, at 13s per ton for tile and cake. Spelter, on the spot, is held at 30s 10s. Zinc is worth 32s 10s to 33s. Lead moves off freely. English pig, 23s to 23s 10s; sheet, 24s to 24s 5s. Tin supports former terms, banca, 14s; straits, 14s. Other metals are steady.

HAY.—SMITHFIELD, Feb. 2.—Supply limited. Prime meadow hay, 6s to 7s; superior ditto, 7s to 8s; inferior ditto, 5s to 6s; rowan, 4s to 6s; second-cut clover, 7s to 8s; new, 7s to 10s; straw, 2s to 3s.

HIDE AND SKIN MARKETS, Saturday, Jan. 31.

	Market Hides, 55 to 64lb.	0 5 to 0 6	per lb
Ditto	64	72 lbs.	0 5 to 0 6
Ditto	72	80 lbs.	0 5 to 0 6
Ditto	80	88 lbs.	0 5 to 0 6
Ditto	88	96 lbs.	0 6 to 0 6
Ditto	96	104 lbs.	0 6 to 0 6
Horse Hides		0 0	10 0
Calf Skins, light		4 0	5 0
Ditto full		9 0	0 0
Polled Sheep		10 0	13 0
Kents and Half Breds		8 0	10 0
Downs		6 0	7 6
Lambs		0 0	0 0
Shearlings		0 0	0 0

COALS, Monday.—A heavy market, at the rates of Friday. Braddell's, 18s—Tees, 19s 6d—Cassop, 18s 3d—Wylam, 16s—Hartley's, 18s—Tanfield, 14s 6d. Fresh arrivals, 14; left from last day, 14; total, 28.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, Feb. 3.—The market closed very tamely, and compared with Friday's rates prices of all kinds are the same, except Egyptian, which is 4d per lb dearer. The sales of cotton are estimated at 8,000 bales, consisting of 1,000 export and 1,200 speculation; 70s Egyptian, at 8d to 12d, 200 speculation; 2,500 Surat, at 5d to 5d, 1,000 speculation. The total sales since Thursday amount to 30,000 bales, 2,000 export and 6,000 speculation.

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